

THE GATEWAY

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Sexual Assault Centre seeks more funding

LEAH COLLINS
Associate News Editor

Unable to continue operations with its current budget, the University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre is circulating a petition to put a student levy increase to referendum.

The Sexual Assault Centre is facing a funding crisis because of recent budget cuts brought on by the provincial government's lowering of post-secondary funding. Each University department, which includes the centre, has been asked to cut its budget by six per cent.

According to Kris Fowler, the centre's director, these cuts would force the centre to reduce its staff to only one full-time employee. This would cause difficulty in holding support groups and would cause cuts to educational workshops and presentations.

Since 1993, the Sexual Assault Centre's first year of operation, a Student Services Fee of one dollar per term has provided funding. In its nine years of existence, the centre has tripled in size and increased services, yet its funding has remained the same.

PLEASE SEE ASSAULT CENTRE • PAGE 3



PATRICK FINLAY

FREEZING FOR A FREEZE Protestors pitch a tent for a tuition freeze outside of University Hall. A tuition rally will take place there at 4:30pm Thursday.

University hoards \$120 million surplus, claims SU Exec

University says SU misread financial statements

JHENIFER PABILANO
News Editor

The SU Executive charged Wednesday that the University has consistently accrued an average of \$30 million surpluses over the last six years, surpluses that would have covered most tuition increases made during that period.

An SU analysis of University budgets from the last six years showed that the University has estimated their operating revenue at an average of 5.1 per cent below actual revenues.

Based on this history, the SU Executive contends that there is no need for a 6.4 per cent tuition increase or differential fees next year.

The accumulated surplus totals \$120 million more than budgeted for, said SU Vice-President (Academic) Mat Brechtel, a surplus that would have eliminated the need for tuition increases during each year.

"The average surplus is \$30 million," he said. "Across the board, that's \$1000 a student, and no increase this year."

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

"They didn't look at the statement that said the operating account which shows the \$5.5 million deficit that we had last year. I don't think it's a mistake, just an easy oversight," said Clark.

"We have a \$24 million unrestricted net asset deficiency last year, and we are the only university in Alberta with a net asset deficiency. The Auditor General himself has said we have got to eliminate this. It doesn't even mean we have to balance our budget. It means that we have to, over a period of years, get rid of our net asset deficiency."

The SU plans to present their information at the Friday Board of Governors meeting.

Clark said the SU analysis simply read a part of the statement that was

surplus, but didn't take into account the numbers at the end of the statement. Those numbers show the University currently has an "unrestricted net asset deficiency," or deferred debt that is still in the process of being paid.

"The average surplus

is \$30 million. Across

the board, that's \$1000

a student, and no

increase this year."



MAYLINE LOVELAND
COMP LIT A TRIPLE FEATURE NO MORE Bill Beard, film studies professor

Department breakup isn't easy for CompLit

KRISTINE OWRAM
Associate News Editor

The U of A's comparative literature department used to be the best in the country, and now there's a good chance that it will no longer exist by fall.

In the 1990s, the department was expanded to include religious studies and film and media studies under the theory that all three subjects shared similar interests in global literature and media. Funding cutbacks at the time made this decision even more appealing. The restructuring did not work as well as hoped, a fact made apparent when Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf announced last year that the department would be dismantled.

Under the proposed structural change, film and media studies will be moved to the departments of art and design or English, religious studies will be moved to history and classics, and comparative literature will be moved to English or modern languages and cultural studies. The most controversial part of the recommendation is the proposal to eliminate the undergraduate degree program in comparative literature.

PLEASE SEE COMP/LIT • PAGE 5



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Outside

Thursday Funny, infiltrate McDonald's land disguised as prison inmate; High -1, Low -16
Friday Sunny, spraypaint "Robbie Robbie" on McMetro trains; High -6, Low -12
Saturday Sunny, drop off old clothes/treasures into bin bags; High -5, Low -16
Sunday Chance of snow, despite May's ice
in blizzards coup d'état; High -13, Low -15
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Carrying over some of the more controversial stories from last week, a group of university staff members marched into the Gateway office. They explained that they were concerned about sexism and found the posters offensive to women. The protesters were followed by a number of engineering students who were angered at the theft of their posters. The two factions faced off, and a fierce exchange of insults and accusations flew for half an hour until the protesters walked out. In response to the incident, an SU forum was quickly planned to discuss the topic "Is Engineering Week sexist?"

1981



22 After using aluminum cookware for the better part of the week, Mr. Chirayath proposed names for the lacrosse team that he is sure will be loved in Edmonton.

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renowned Canadian Institute for Public Health.

California history showcased in library exhibit

**Zamorano 80 display
in Bruce Peel Special
Collections Library
highlights books telling
the history of California**

SHAWN BENBOW
News Writer

As part of an ongoing series of exhibitions showcasing rare and old books at the University of Alberta, the Bruce Peel Special Collections library houses the oldest and rarest books at the University. The Zamorano 80: Landmark Books in Californian History.

Located in the basement of Rutherford South, the Bruce Peel Special Collections library houses the oldest and rarest books at the University. The Zamorano 80 display is a collection of books brought together by men of the Zamorano book club of California in the 1940s.

Formed in 1928 and named for California's first printer, the Zamorano club was a group of prominent men interested in books and California history, who set out to publish the 100 most influential books in the history of the state. Unfortunately, things hit a snag right away:

"They could not agree on 100, being grouchy old men, so many members decided not to go along with it at all," said John Charles, Special Collections Librarian.

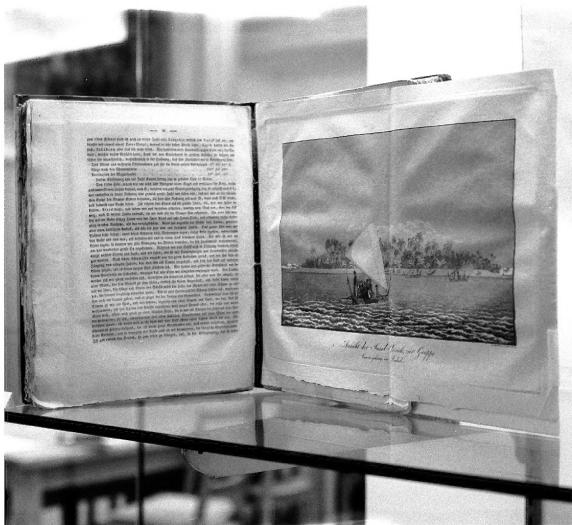
In the end, seven men decided on 80 books. There are numerous genres in the Zamorano 80, including fiction, short stories, diaries, and even scientific material.

However they all deal with the period of history in California that spans from the discovery of California to the mid-twentieth century.

"California has always had a terrific interest in its own history and culture, and has always had a very active publishing centre," said Charles. The gold rush, said Charles, was a historically interesting period: as there were no laws, he said, "there were occasional lynchings, there was a self-created kind of government, so someone caught stealing might be shot. They had to have extreme measures at times like this."

As a result, many of the books are diaries of European visitors who were fascinated by the culture.

The University owns 57 of the 80 books. Fifty-four of them were acquired from the collection of Robert J. Woods at an auction in the late



CALIFORNIA BOOKS FROM GRUMPY OLD MEN Fifty-seven rare books about California history are on display.

1960s.

The oldest books in the collection were printed in Madrid in 1757, and were the first works published solely on California. The three volumes were taken from a diary of Father Venegas, a Mexican Jesuit, and put end to the myth that California was an island.

Originally, California was composed of Spaniards, aborigines, and Catholic Franciscans, "so it had its own culture that had nothing to do with the New England States... but when the Americans were added to the mix in the 1800s, they wanted to take over," said Charles.

Many of the books were picked for the Zamorano 80 because they show the cultural diversity of the time.

Not all the books are ancient. One of the later books is titled McTeague: A Story of San Francisco. Written by Frank Norris in the late 1800s, it is the story of a dentist in San Francisco.

According to Charles, "I've got some really wild books. I've never read, and you can see how San Francisco

was so intoxicated he had to be held in custody for a number of hours before it was safe to release him.

PUSHY SALESMAN

An unidentified male soliciting in Newton Place on 8 January would not take no for an answer. When refused by residents, he became aggressive and ripped up papers. Don't hesitate to contact Campus Security if a solicitor on campus makes you feel threatened or uncomfortable.

A BED FOR THE NIGHT

In the evening on 10 January, Campus Security officers responded to a report of a suspicious male sleeping in the Extension Centre. He was identified, and placed under arrest for numerous outstanding warrants. He had an extensive criminal record.

BACKYARD DASH

In the early morning of 11 January, constables attempted to stop a vehicle

in the 1890s resembled modern times and also seems like it was hundreds of years ago at the same time."

"California has always had a terrific interest in its own history and culture, and has always been a very active publishing centre."

JOHN CHARLES,

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN

Established in 1969, the Special Collections library was started, Charles says, to house "materials that need special handling of various sorts."

"The vagueness of the term is useful." They hold old and rare publications, as well as all of U of A theses, and their main goal is to perform preventative maintenance, such as for delicate plates.

Generally, books cannot be signed

on 114 Street and 83 Avenue. The driver increased speed and ran through a red light before ditching the car and taking off on foot. Edmonton Police responded with the dog unit to join University constables on the chase.

The male was finally arrested at the LRT station as he was brushing branches out of his clothes that he had picked up while running through residential neighbourhoods. He had been driving a stolen vehicle.

LOST CASH FOUND

Did you leave money at a bank machine on campus on the morning of 13 January? If so, contact Campus Security with the details to recover the property.

EXTENSION BURGLAR BEHIND BARS

On 11 January at 8pm during a routine patrol of the Extension Centre, a Campus Security officer spotted two suspicious males.

They refused to provide identification

out, but can be read or studied at the tables set up in the library.

Most of the Special Collections Library's holdings were acquired in the late 1960s when the University was spending over a million dollars a year on rare books, to lure graduate students to the U of A.

"We needed something more than Shakespeare and Jane Austen for English studies," said Charles. They have extensive collections of John Bunyan, DH Lawrence, history of the Canadian prairie provinces and the American mid-west, English literature from the 1600s to 1950, and the history of the book arts, such as printing and binding.

The exhibit runs Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm, until 1 March.

During the exhibit you will only be able to observe the maps and pictures from the books behind glass. "We try to make the exhibits as lively to look at as we can," says Charles.

"However, we'd be glad to have the books used once the exhibit comes down."

and fled the building. After a foot chase and a brief scuffle, one male was placed under arrest for assaulting a peace officer, obstruction of justice, and resisting arrest.

The other male escaped on foot and is described as Caucasian, 5'10", 18-20 years of age, with dark hair, thick dark brown eyebrows, and a mole on his right cheek. He was wearing a red baseball cap and a red hooded sweatshirt covered by a black jacket.

Both males are believed to be linked to a break-and-enter and a series of break-ins attempts in the Extension Centre over the last couple of days.

BOOZE CRUISE

On 15 January at 3:45am, constables stopped a vehicle at 114 Street and University Avenue. Open liquor and drug paraphernalia were observed. EPS attended and both males were arrested for possession of a controlled substance. The vehicle, drugs, cash and cellphones were seized.

STREETERS

After being faced with a six per cent budget cut, the U of A Sexual Assault Centre is circulating a petition for a referendum allowing students to vote for a \$1 student levy.

What is your stance on cutbacks to the U of A Sexual Assault Centre?



Shannon Moore
Nursing IV

I think it speaks to the climate of society and its undervaluing of people who have been victims or who are potential victims of sexual assault [by] not offering proper support and as well as prevention. The Sexual Assault Centre does a great job of prevention. Everywhere else in the country they're increasing funds towards that kind of thing and here we're cutting back. It says where our priorities are.



Kelly Hammond
Nursing I

If we had to pay more for that service, I would, especially seeing as there have been more cases of sexual assault lately around the University area. I don't agree with cutting back on student services.



Jeremy Freeman
Biological Sciences III

I'm against it and I think it's a relevant issue to students in our community. It's something that should be sustained and supported. I believe there are a lot of fees right now that have been applied and for some people it's hard to pay them. I think putting it to referendum is a good thing and I would support it. The money right now, though, should be coming from either the Students' Union or the University administration. I don't think it should come from students' pockets.



Lesley Wieler
Arts IV

It's very unfortunate because there is so much sexual assault at the U of A and across campuses. I wouldn't foresee a problem with the referendum question. One dollar is not a problem for me to help people out.

Compiled and photographed by Leah Collins and Daniel Kaszor

Wily coyote shot on UBC campus grounds

Animal's aggression stems from human attention

PARMINDER NIZHIER
The Ubyssey

VANCOUVER (CUP) — An aggressive coyote roaming the University of British Columbia (UBC) campus for several weeks was shot and killed last Tuesday.

Scott McCrae of UBC Public Affairs said several complaints were made to UBC Campus Security about the coyote, starting in November. A few came from concerned parents of young children who were approached by the coyote.

Coyotes are not an unusual sight at UBC since the campus is bordered by Pacific Spirit Park. But due to its aggressive behaviour, the coyote was monitored by Campus Security, and for several weeks, by BC Wildlife Conservation Officer Fred Barnes.

Barnes said the coyote needed to be shot because it had lost its fear of people. Once a coyote loses its fear of people, he said, it won't be long before it attacks a person or another animal.

"The most telling behaviour was [that] it was starting to lunge at people," he said. "It had learned that by lunging at people it could cause them to drop their food, or toss food to it. That type of behaviour is usually the last step before it starts to bite."

FRED BARNES, BC WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER

UBC has no official policy on how to deal with wildlife. Complaints on wildlife are forwarded to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air. The BC Wildlife Conservation agency follows up on the complaint and an officer is sent to deal with it as he sees fit.

Barnes' word of advice to all campus dwellers is to harass the coyotes.

"We're not asking people to hurt them," said Barnes. "We're asking people to harass them [and] chase them, that way they maintain their natural fear of people. The worst thing people can do is feed them."

SUB renovations made short-term funds scarce for Centre

ASSAULT CENTRE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Sexual Assault Centre is currently petitioning that students be able to vote on whether the centre receives funding through a one-dollar-per-term increase in University Student Services Fees.

"The reason we decided to go with that amount is because it will give us the budget that we can operate at three staff members, maintain all the services we are doing and expand our education program," said Fowler.

Traditionally, the Sexual Assault Centre has found money to grow and operate through short-term funding solutions and the Office of the Dean of Students' Contingency Fund. The Sexual Assault Contingency Fund is no longer draw from the Contingency fund as it has been put into developing an increased space for student services in the SUB expansion.

"We were very supportive of the new SUB expansion," said Fowler, "because we needed a place to go." But she explains that as a result, "all the short term solutions we've used in the past are not available to us for the next five years."

The Sexual Assault Centre has explored fundraising through the University's Development Office (as required by all departments), has lobbied the provincial government for funding for education and counselling programs as a member of the Alberta Association of Sexual Assault Centres, and has tried to find funds through community grants. These attempts have been unsuccessful.

"We could charge for service," said

Fowler, "but it's something I'm unwilling to do because I think it's hard enough for someone to access a sexual assault centre without having to dig around for five or ten dollars whenever they come in."

"We are the most vulnerable service because our budget always has to be supplemented."

One of only three Canadian university sexual assault centres (the others are at McGill University and the University of Victoria), the Sexual Assault Centre provides services such as short-term counselling for sexual assault survivors, boundaries and assertiveness workshops, and interactive education presentations.

Presently, the Sexual Assault Centre budget accounts for two employees, one full-time, and one part-time, as well as an operating budget that covers expenses for the centre's awareness week, photocopying, and phone lines.

Fowler said the centre has experienced a continual increase of use. She said it presently has 37 volunteers, and clientele averages around 100 per year.

For a referendum to be held on their question in the upcoming Students' Union election, they require 2500 valid undergraduate signatures. The Sexual Assault Centre has collected 2000 signatures, and is aiming for approximately 3500, said Fowler.

Petitions are being circulated by Sexual Assault Centre volunteers in classrooms and U of A residences and will continue to be available until the end of the month.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Poll Clerks (150 – 200 needed)

- Work part time on 2 voting days (March 5&6)
- Supervise polling stations
- Wage: \$6.50 per hour
- Application deadline: February 7th, 2003

Poll Captains (4 needed)

- Work part time from Reading Week to March 7
- Supervise candidates, enforce election regulations, assist Deputy Returning Officers and poll clerks on voting days
- Wage: \$500 honorarium
- Application deadline: January 31st, 2003

Applications available at SU Info Booths in SUB, CAB and HUB, and at 2-900 SUB.

If you would like to review all Student's Union job postings, they can be found at this website: www.su.ualberta.ca/jobs.html

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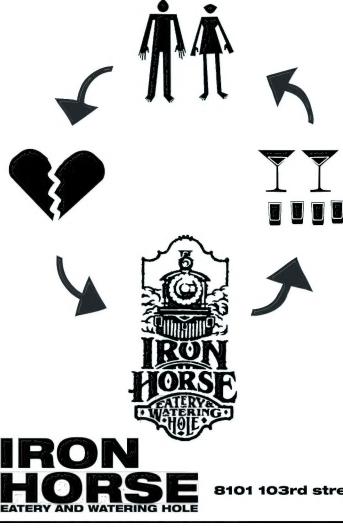
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MAYLINE LOVELAND

DR BILL BEARD WAS astonished when he heard his department would be dismantled from its present form in the summer of 2003.

"It was a complete surprise. We had no previous warnings or previous consultation," said Beard, head of the film and media stream of the department of comparative literature, religion, and film and media studies.

Now that the initial shock of the announcement has faded, however, Beard is hopeful about the future of his program.

The Faculty of Arts plans to redirect film studies into a new, but still undetermined, department.

And while comparative literature fights for the life of its undergraduate program, Beard doubts that moving to a new department will harm the U of A's film studies program.

"There's a sense that the faculty has a belief in our program, and I've heard from every level up to the administration that [film studies] is a place where the faculty would like to put more resources," said Beard.

Whether or not those resources will materialize is another question, but Beard pointed out the likelihood that film studies will soon be associated with a larger, more resource-laden department, which wouldn't do much harm.

"We're unlikely to be any worse off," he said. "Don't take that the wrong way though. We're not badly off here, but I don't think we'll suffer from a disciplinary standpoint in the future."

Presently, the departments of English and art and design have been mentioned as possible future homes for film studies. Beard says that his program, which has links to many different disciplines, is flexible.

"Film studies is just as close to what they do in English as it is to what they do in comparative literature as it is to what they do in art and design," he said.

With only three full-time staff members, the University of Alberta offers what Beard describes as a competitive, although "minimal," BA program in film and media studies. Graduate students in this program currently work through comparative literature, while honours degrees are not available.

"I have heard from some of our undergraduate students who have gone on to grad school in film at different universities; looking back at Alberta, they are astonished at how competitive we are," said Beard.

"Wow, our girls are better than what they've got here, and with a lot more resources."

Beard taught the U of A's first film studies course in 1978, and film and media studies became a degree-granting program in 1990. Now, as the program's path changes once again, Beard knows what he wants to see in the future.

"I would like to see us in a home in which we fit well, in which we are appreciated, in which we are able to develop collaborative initiatives with [our colleagues]," he said. "I hope that we will be able to preserve our structure and curriculum control and that we will find a way to grow in our new context."

Kerry Precht

partingways

How religion, film studies, and
comparative literature reacted
to the department breakup

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES program will likely ring in the next academic year as part of the department of history and classics. The address shift is the outcome of a decision made by the Faculty of Arts to dismantle the department of comparative literature, religious studies, and film and media studies at end of this term.

Naturally, such a change is without its negative effects on the department as a whole, but head of religious studies Dr. Willi Braun believes that the decision will bring nothing but good to his program.

"By nature I am a pessimist and if I'm an optimist on this score that means I must think the prospects are good," Braun said.

Braun views the change as a much-needed salve to the loss of resources suffered by his program due to funding cutbacks in 1998 and 2002.

In terms of numbers, it's certainly hard to disagree with him. There are currently three full-time faculty members employed in religious studies. According to Braun, the program will be able to immediately draw on the resources of about 15 new professors after the restructuring of the program. Most likely these will be professors from the department of history and classics who specialize in areas relevant to religious studies as well.

"The programs will continue but with broader faculty support than in the past, and with fewer structural obstacles in the way of collaboration with faculty members. So I'm more optimistic for the future of religious studies now than I was a year ago."



MAYLINE LOVELAND

Willi Braun, head of the religious studies program

Braun said:

He sees the change as an offshoot of a new philosophy within the Faculty of Arts that focuses on forging interdisciplinary ties.

Though the final details of the future administration of his program continue to be a point of debate, Braun is certain that the current form of the department will not last.

"The three programs have been functioning more or less—with the emphasis on the more—as rather academic academic units within a single departmental structure," he said.

"Over the past two years there have been some attempts made to cross-list courses between comparative literature and religious studies, and also between comparative literature and film studies. But that cross listing was always the exception rather than the rule."

Inevitably there are drawbacks to such big changes, and Braun is regret-

ful that they have to come at the personal level.

"The people at the faculty level and student level have been getting along famously. There will certainly be some loss in that regard," he said.

And despite Braun's cautious optimism, he is well aware that continued support from the University will be necessary for the program to survive.

"The future success of religious studies as an interdisciplinary, cross-departmental operation will require that the university continue to give it strong support, and by this I mean more than simply moral support and more than supposing it will flourish simply on the basis of enthusiastic voluntarism on the part of faculty members," he said. "It is going to have to be given assured funding that will allow it to plan for the future with some stability rather than flourishing merely on a wind and a hope."

Mimi Simon

STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS of the comparative literature department got an early Christmas surprise when it was announced that plans for major changes to their department were in the works.

On 15 November 2002, university administrators posted a letter on the Faculty of Arts website outlining plans to dismantle comparative literature, film and media studies, and religious studies as an independent department. It also stated that these would cease to be undergraduate degree programs in the comparative literature field.

Comparative literature courses will likely be moved to either the department of modern languages and cultural studies or to the department of English.

Dalbir Sehmbiy, a graduate student in comparative literature, was disappointed at the abrupt notice from the faculty, calling the process "undemocratic," as he said no discussion was made with the department on the decision.

"Democracy takes time. They just don't want to go through the process," said Sehmbiy.

Daniel Woolf, the Dean of Arts, would not comment on the situation.

Students currently completing majors or minors in comparative literature received letters informing them of the changes that were being made and assuring them they could still complete their degrees. But for some students, the assurances missed the point.

"They are shocked that we are upset because they think we are well looked after," said Sheena Wilson, a graduate student who teaches comparative literature.

"They don't understand this desire we have to protect the discipline as well as the undergraduate students."

Wilson stressed the importance of the identity of the department. She worries about the consequences if enrolment in the degree program is suspended next academic year.

"This is not so much about us. It's about how to safeguard the discipline for future students at the U of A. We are teachers and we're devoted to the future of comparative literature."

SHEENA WILSON, GRADUATE STUDENT, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

"In two years how will we get to the students to encourage them to take comparative literature? How will they know about it if it's listed under a different name?"

Wilson fears the program in its current form will disappear completely.

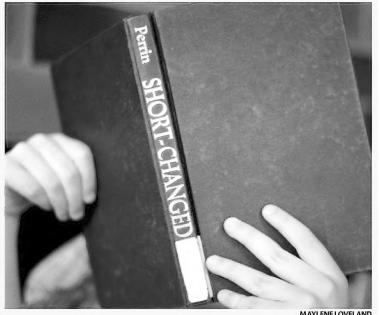
"This is not so much about us. It's about how to safeguard the discipline for future students at the U of A," said Sehmbiy. "We are teachers and we're devoted to the future of comparative literature."

Both Sehmbiy and Wilson give credit to Woolf and the rest of the arts administration for being responsive and talking the issue over with those it will affect. The administration has assured the department that all contracts will be carried out and that no jobs will be lost.

The department of comparative literature is now fighting to cancel the suspension that is currently active for newly enrolling undergraduate students, to represent and keep alive the undergraduate program, and to ensure their name stays the same.

Sehmbiy summed up his message in six simple words: "Don't fix something that isn't broken."

Joscelyn Armstrong



MAYLENE LOVELAND

Decision-making process considered 'undemocratic'

COMPLIT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although students currently enrolled in the program will still be able to finish their degrees, this proposal has inspired protest from quite a few students and faculty members.

"I think it's terrible what's going on," said fifth-year comparative literature student Nancy Carlson. "I think the comparative literature program has a lot of potential, and for it to dissolve into another department is the worst thing that could happen to it right now."

Although no definite decisions have been made yet, a series of sub-committees meet this month and then report to a general implementation committee in early February.

Dr Ted Blodgett, a senior Professor Emeritus who was chair of comparative literature for twelve years back in its heyday (1975-1985, 1990-1992), expressed his anger at the proposed change as well as the decision-making process, saying it "violates all notions of democracy" for its lack of consultation with those who it will affect most: the students and professors in the department.

Both students and professors, particularly from comparative literature, have been writing letters and petitioning to save their undergrad program, and Blodgett is among the most vocal of those fighting the decision.

"The Dean of Arts [Daniel Woolf] may say they have devised an implementation committee, but the decision to get rid of the department has already been made," he said. "The people have no voice in whether the department stays or not. That is incredibly undemocratic."

Woolf was unwilling to comment

on the situation.

Despite the controversy surrounding comparative literature, however, many members of the current department agree that the proposed changes will be for the best.

"Personally, I think it's a good change," said Andrew Demoline, a third-year student of religious studies. "I think this will provide more cohesiveness to the program. I don't think all of religious studies necessarily fits neatly into history, but it fits a lot better than just throwing it into the leftovers pot like they did before."

Dr Jerry Varsava, current chair of the department, says Andrew is not alone in his stance.

"It is the faculty's view that the departmental reorganization will enrich the research and teaching of the professors involved," he said. "It will also strengthen programs for students for students."

According to Dr Fordyce Pier, one of the co-chairs of the implementation committee, the decisions will likely benefit all areas affected.

"I'm guessing that comparative literature studies will be, if not strong, then even stronger," he said. "By housing these subjects in other departments and by selecting other courses from across the faculty to complement them, they can all be enhanced. That's the premise we're working on."

No matter what the outcome, this decision may represent the end of an era for a department that was once one of the best of its kind.

"I run into people all the time who tell me that the comp lit department at the U of A put our humanities program on the world map," said Blodgett.

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OPINION

managing@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 16 january 2003

Jesus wouldn't drive an SUV

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JESUS AND A TERRORIST? The kind of car they would drive, according to recent American television advertisements.

In four states last fall, the Evangelical Environmental Network informed us that Jesus supports fuel efficiency. This week, the Detroit Project, a group headed by the Californian columnist and author Arianna Huffington, released two commercials implying that SUV drivers are no better than terrorists and are, in some cases, even helping to fund terrorist organizations.

The first commercial ends with a voiceover asking: "Oil money supports some terrible things. What kind of mileage does your SUV get?" The second one shows a range of average-looking Americans telling the viewers things like: "I helped hijack an airplane," and "I gave money to a terrorist training camp in a foreign country." This one ends with the question: "What is your SUV doing to our national security?"

This union of religious fundamentalism and American patriotism with left-wing ideas of environmentalism may seem somewhat contradictory. After all, how can one be against terrorism and against the Bush administration's environmental policies at the same time in this black-and-white world of ours?

But the fact that these extreme notions are being joined at all seems to indicate an interesting shift in American politics. Suddenly, environmentalism is the new raison d'être for groups that wouldn't have even taken it into consideration ten years ago, and politicians who don't jump on the bandwagon soon will be surprised to find themselves out of jobs.

However, the problem with extremists taking on environmentalism from either the far left or the far right is that their arguments are not always credible or believable, and thus, often harm the cause more than they help it.

Contrary to what Huffington would have you believe, for example, driving an SUV is not directly helping to hijack an airplane. And it seems doubtful that Jesus is watching up in heaven and saying, "Wow, they finally have me figured out down there! I do support fuel efficiency!"

These arguments are more likely to turn people off environmentalism than anything, and someone should let their perpetrators know that. Huffington's commercials are not going to achieve the goal of limiting the number of SUVs on the road. They're going to make a lot of self-righteous people out there pretty indignant, and this is not going to help stop air pollution.

The best way to bring people around to a cause is simple: facts. If you have genuine facts as to why SUVs are harming the environment, people are going to be a lot more likely to change their ways than if you tell them they're somehow indirectly supporting terrorism in some far away country.

And as consumers, we have to try to exercise some judgment. As environmental debates begin to gear up, don't believe everything everyone is telling you, because chances are, a lot of it isn't true. Do your own research, check your own facts, and think critically, because knowledge is the only way any of us are going to make any difference.

KRISTINE OWRAM
Associate News Editor

Lastman to leave

THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE JUST GOT EVEN BETTER. After a 34-year political career, and two terms in office, Toronto's walking smile, Mel Lastman, is finally calling it quits. It's about that frickin' time. And it's also evidence of a problem we're witnessing at both a federal and local level: our leaders can't let go of power.

They look it in unreachable towers, far from the hands of the people they represent. Meanwhile, people who are considerably less jaded, and perhaps better suited, wait in their wings for their time to shine.

I welcome the change and would go so far as to suggest it's time for Mayor Bill Smith to exit stage right. His cheerleading has grown stale.

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

LETTERS

There's plenty wrong with genetically engineered foods

I shook my head when I read "Nothing is wrong with GM foods" by Phillip Head (14 January). It saddens me that ignorance is so rampant in our society today. And so here I am, to state what I believe to be the "truth" on GM foods.

First of all, Phillip Head obviously failed to adequately research and understand the difference between genetically modified foods and genetically engineered foods (GE foods). When you genetically modify a food, like making grapes seedless, you don't cross species.

And when you select a strong bull to mate with a docile mother cow, you may be selecting for desirable traits but it is not the same thing as sitting in a lab and putting a fish gene into a tomato. In nature, if a horse mates with a zebra, you get a "zorse," but the zorse is sterile. This is nature's way of saying, "Whoa, this isn't supposed to happen!"

It's a control to prevent all of the crazy things that can arise from crossing species.

Secondly, even if we test in some over-controlled lab and find that the GE crops are "fine," there is no way to actually duplicate an ecosystem and take into account all of the different effects a GE food crop might have. Unexpected things happen, and it's not worth the risk.

Sure, there is the age-old argument that great things could come from GE foods like "solving" world hunger. My problem with this is that we are failing to understand the actual root cause of why people are starving in the first place. Maybe we could work to solve the actual problem instead of throwing some techno-solution at it. Sometimes big scientific technologies are not the answer. Further, a characteristic of an effective solution is that it doesn't create more problems than it solves.

A researcher in the United Kingdom found that in rats fed GE foods some developed tumors, suffered from influenced growth and some experienced shrivelling. Concerned? Also, I read in the Edmonton Journal's white back that potatoes that are genetically engineered contain about one-fourth the nutrition of organic potatoes. That kinda defeats the purpose of "increasing yield" since now you have to eat four potatoes instead of one to obtain the same nutrition.

Genetically engineered foods have also been linked to serious allergies. Moreover, David Suzuki stated in his well-researched book that "corn that was genetically modified to carry its own selective insecticide is now threatening to inadvertently wipe out the monarch butterfly population of North America." I'm pretty sure that's a bad thing.

Regardless, even without testing we should acknowledge our lack of understanding when it comes to nature. Our "technology" has shown appalling ignorance to the fragile equilibrium of our earth. We threw DDT around claiming it was safe until species were showing up dead left and right. You can't predict that in some lab because you



R. BIESINGER

can't duplicate the complications of nature.

We've been polluting to no end and are just now realizing that it might not be a good thing. We need to stop our arrogance and dominance over an earth that precedes us in knowledge by four billion years. And if you fail to grasp all of this, here's a friendly reminder: we're better safe than sorry.

HEATHER GOWER
Arts II

Video games are the tops, somehow related to Gateway article

In regards to the opinion piece Mr Krauss wrote on never drinking ("Alcohol hasn't an ounce of good," 21 November), I don't make a big effort to let people know that I drink. I do, however, love playing video games. Video games are the greatest!

I let the radiation from the television make me impotent and blind. I also love getting arthritis from the wickedness of the controller! Video games don't isolate people. When I'm playing Grand Theft Auto and killin' bitches, I'm making meaningful interpersonal contact with the bitches I'm killin'.

I'm not self-righteous at all. I'm just weird. Or am I?

MIKE CASEMORE
Arts IV

NDP leadership race a model for other parties

The NDP leadership race is coming down to the wire. The last debate before the convention 25 January will be in Ottawa and televised on CPAC, the parliamentary channel.

Tuesday, 14 January at 7pm.

Never before has a Canadian political party had such a public leadership debates. Never before have ordinary party members and the public had such a good look at leadership candidates in contest with each other.

Will there be such a public contest when the Liberals or Conservatives choose their leaders this year? I doubt it. Like the NDP used to do, delegates will decide their leadership contests and all the vote gathering will be done in private meetings. This is a shame. Our next Prime Minister may never have debated his rivals in public.

Why don't the Liberals and Conservatives open their leadership vote up to all of their members like the NDP and their Alliance? What are they afraid of?

TONY TROTTER
Ottawa, Ontario

Christmas concert evidence of perspective and tolerance

Regarding the Gateway letter to the editor, "UofA Christmas Concert could have reflected a breadth of religions" (7 January), I am glad to be a part of a university that celebrates the music and traditions of all the major religions.

A great portion of the repertoire

for both singers and organists originates in or is associated with the Christian religion and its traditions. How fortunate we are to perform some of this great music in the Festival of Lessons and Carols each year, an appropriate context that provides performers and listeners with a different way of experiencing the music than in a concert.

I would suggest that the Festival of Lessons and Carols speaks/sings loudly to the breadth of perspective

and tolerance of the University of Alberta.

MARIE GIESBRECHT
Professor, Department of Music

Remember Ben Tre'

Remember Ben Tre'? That was the Vietnamese village the Americans destroyed in 1968. They said, "It became necessary to destroy the town in order to save it." Since then the Americans have been saving towns all over the globe in Cambodia, Laos, Panama, Nicaragua, Sudan, Iraq, Yugoslavia and more. Then on 11 September, 2001, someone, no doubt, overcome with gratitude, decided to save some Americans.

The Americans (and Canadians too) responded in kind by saving several villages in Afghanistan. But, alas, they were not able to save the elusive Osama bin Laden.

Now the Americans are asking Canadians to help save what is left of Iraq. Is there no end to their generosity?

I think it's time we told our Prime Minister what we think of this Charity. It's easy to do. He can be e-mailed or written to in care of the House of Commons, with no stamp required. The alternative, of course, is to do nothing and be prepared to express our gratitude when someone decides to save us.

BEV CURRIE
Swift Current, Saskatchewan

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Liberal agenda obviously a product of Hitlerite masterminds



STEPHEN
POTYONDI

Most Canadians—even those who haven't picked up a newspaper in years—have probably noticed a trend in federal politics towards implementing policies that tend to rankle Alberta. The latest of these is the new gun registry law, which has generated a wave of rabid criticism across the province directed at the scheming masterminds in Ottawa and their nefarious plot to undermine Alberta sovereignty once again.

Debates have raged over its merits, but none as poignant as one I had the other day with a typical gun-totting megalomaniac from Peace River. When I asked him why the gun registry law heralded the end of the world, he replied, "The gun registry is a form of gun control. Hitler had gun control."

When I asked him why the gun registry law heralded the end of the world, he replied, "The gun registry is a form of gun control. Hitler had gun control."

Consider if you will, the recently ratified Kyoto protocol, which has rendered the tenuous props of the oil

patch and crippled the once-mighty energy industry of our glorious province. All Canadians know this, but few are aware that in 1935, Hitler pioneered the *Reichsnaturhuschgesetz* or "nature protection law" in Nazi Germany.

While this alone was not enough to arouse my suspicions, as I probed deeper, I also learned that Hitler was the first leader to ban smoking in public places. Is it mere accident that the Liberals have implemented the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy and that one of Alberta's largest sources of tax revenue happens to be... tobacco?

But it was when I read that Hitler was a fervent vegetarian that I became convinced that my greatest fears had been realized. Yes, those vegetarians—those hated enemies of the Alberta cattle industry—who exist happily in every other province were also embraced by the most evil man in history. By now it should be obvious to anyone with a capacity for reason that the Canadian federal government is nothing more than a thinly disguised crypto-fascist holdout for Nazi sympathizers and anti-Albertans.

The evidence is plain for all to see:

the invasion of small, useless countries like Afghanistan and Iraq, the surging economy in the midst of a *de facto* depression south of the border, the virtual single-party regime that has existed for decades, and the red and white flag which bears an eerie resemblance to the *Hakenkreuzfahne* of National Socialist Germany, all point toward the horrible truth of Canadian politics.

we have always been the victims of unjust and systematic persecution at the hands of the Canadian government.

Can federal legislation demanding

that all Albertans wear a yellow "I love AB beef" star be far off? It would be fatal for the province to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the need to rally around its beloved Premier to unequivocally reject all future Liberal dictates. Unbeknownst to all, the ever-humble Mr Klein has been combatting this oppression for years, notably with his massive budget cuts (National Socialism is leftist and the Canadian government is Liberal—coincidence?).

We must join the fight. The too oft-dismissed wisdom of the militant opponents of gun registry can no longer be ignored. Whatever logical route one follows when evaluating the above evidence, the same inevitable conclusion will be reached: gun control is but one more link in the chain that Ottawa has been forging for years in order to usurp Alberta so that it can extend its behalf tentacles across the nation, unchallenged.

And that is why I oppose firearm registry in Canada.

Forget Ernst Zundel.

Prime Minister

Jean Chrétien is the true subversive peril in Canada.

Forget Ernst Zundel. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is the true subversive peril in Canada. Now, whenever he mentions that he "won't run again," I find myself secretly wondering what he really means.

Judging by the other provinces' complacency and willingness to tolerate this sort of federal policy, it is clear they have entered into an Anschluss with Ottawa, leaving Alberta as the sole bastion of freedom, democracy, and capitalism in the country. Small wonder then that

TELUS CENTRE FULL OF CRAP



MATTHEW
BLACK

Lecture to Telus at noon will take you more than ten minutes barring any sudden clear-outs of HUB mall or a *Back to the Future*-like hooverboard. I don't see any Marty McFlys around campus, so braving the crowds and being late for Spanish class are my only option.

However, its remote location is only the start of the problems with the big TC. In addition to being located a quarter-hour hike from most other campus buildings, the Telus Centre has apparently adopted a student-unfriendly policy. For the balance of the first semester, the various rooms and meeting areas were open to students to sleep, study and do whatever students do. Around November, though, Telus Centre folks decided that having students in the building was an unwise idea and promptly erected signs warning students that said rooms were "restricted."

Apparently, the Centre has forgotten that students need places to go between classes.

The students meeting in these areas weren't exactly raising a ruckus, disturbing the eerily quiet atmosphere prevalent in the building. And for the most part, these rooms provided an ideal quiet study area away from the bustle of central campus. I certainly can understand if the business folk who hold conferences near these rooms from time to time want some peace and quiet, but from experience, such business meetings don't seem to occur that often during class hours. Even so, in a University building, students, not businessmen, should come first.

As part of the University campus, the Telus Centre must make a full commitment to students being in the building. The current conditions there aren't conducive to learning, and students shouldn't be content to put up with the University's blatant attempt to hide the uselessness of the building.

If the University is unwilling to make the Telus Centre more student friendly, they should cut their losses and move on, leaving it as a monument to the misguided ways of the University.

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Feminists are real people, too

KIRSTEN
MCCREA

C'mon, say it. Say the F word. Feminist, baby.

We've just met. So, let's be frank: I am a feminist. Swear to the God I don't believe in—a feminist. And I wear the label proudly. Now, you totally disrepect the completely fabulous individual you are and making one great, big assumption, probably don't even know what the word means.

Oh, I'm sure you have an idea of what a feminist might be: a hairy-legged lesbian man-hater, bitchy, buck, fucking-ugly, a dyke. Those tend to be the words I encounter. Maybe you've got a few of your own. And maybe when you hear "feminist" you automatically think of an awesome, totally empowered, beautiful, outspoken, confident and cuntalicious babe. But if you do (and more power to you), you are most definitely in the minority. This is Alberta, which makes my life significantly more difficult.

Now, I sue as hell wasn't always a feminist. There was a time when I heard the word and just sort of clenched up my fingers and screwed

up my face and was all like, "Not me!" Then I would say (and you know you've heard this before), "I'm not a feminist, but..." But I like the fact that I get to go to university, but I sure do love not having to pump out babies, but I think women should be equal to men. So instead I'd burst out with, "I'm an egalitarian!" Boy, is my face red.

I think I always suspected I might be a feminist. I just didn't have the tools to defend myself once I spoke the word and the onslaught began. Label yourself as one in a generic social situation and you get anger, confusion, hostility—rarely ambivalence. And forget support. Most of all, you get sentences such as the always enjoyable, "Oh, so you hate men."

Uh, no. Men are some of my relatives, some of my enemies, some of my best friends. All in all, men are awesome. Women too—that's my point. Basically, as a feminist, I believe

people should be equal, as vague and overly simplistic a word and notion as that. I believe that we should not gloss over our differences, but celebrate them. I believe that we need to eliminate economic and gendered disparity. I believe that women in this society are exploited for their domestic labour, are made to feel like shit if they don't conform to our narrowly-constructed notion of beauty, and are generally not valued or treated the same as men. I believe that this article is not nearly long enough to espouse my extremely complex and lengthy views on this topic.

Maybe Gloria Steinem said it best: "Feminism is about choices." Simple.

Moving on, I've been going strong with this F word woven into the lexicon of my general identity for about a year now. Like any living, breathing human being, I am somewhat of a mess of idiosyncrasies, contradictions and hypocrisies. I am a feminist and I listen to punk rock, folk music, read books, spunkily shave my legs, and sing both verbally and physically to the death. I rant about consumerism and buy pants at the mall. I hate pop music but get a kick out of dancing to Prince. I feel pretty guilty about wearing makeup but did it anyway.

Mostly though, I have fun. The kind of fun that can only be found in the freedom of no longer caring what others think.

This F word ain't so bad after all.

Gun registration is my real girlfriend

CHRIS
BOUTET

Now those who know me know I'm a pretty liberal-y, socialist kind of guy. I like my health care paid for, my taxes high, my death penalty non-existent, and the cost of mounting the 40m obelisk has-relief depicting a naked Nikita Krushchev punching Superman in the face that graces the front of my house, completely subsidized by my province's arts program.

And as such, one can pretty much expect that I am all about the registration of firearms—which, according to a few of my vocal Albertans, naturally makes the worst Red-Soviet Comie pinako-Nazi in existence since Hitler invaded the moon, stabbed Neil Armstrong and ratified the National Energy Program in 1891.

But don't get me wrong; it's not like I hate guns or anything. No fearin' way, palio. A gun is probably the most versatile tool one can have handy around the house, food dehydrators excluded, of course. I mean, you can use the barrel end to totally shoot things like bears, home intruders, or home intruders riding bears; you can, like, bash smaller things with the handle end, like midget home intruders or, like, these flying piranhas from James Cameron's *Piranha II: The Spawning*. You could, uh, draw things if you taped a pencil to it... you could—oh, I don't know, shoot it off really fast and read in bed by the light of the muzzle flash.

Like I said, a million uses, although I suppose that shooting and bashing are the only ones that aren't totally retarded. So I guess "versatile" isn't the best way to describe a gun, really, since you pretty much have to kill something to use one right. And what's so wrong with that? After all, who

frowned upon in Canada, and gun-related injuries tend to play hell on overall health care costs, the Canadian government has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that the risks proposed by gun ownership are minimized. And one way to minimize that risk is to know who in Canada has guns, how many they have, and what they use them for.

Alberta, of course, hates this idea because some politician other than Ralph Klein came up with it, and apparently it's just another way in which the "eastern bastards" are "screwing us." Well, I'm not sure how registering a firearm actively screws anyone, but just think of it as an extension of Canada's big-government socialist ideal.

If you're against gun registration, you might as well be opposed to everything else that our political structure entails, like welfare programs, free health services, or the fact that your tax dollars paid for that huge ergonomic carving displayed prominently on the front of my house—which, even though you may hate it now, I'm confident that one glance of Krushchev's lovingly sculpted obelisk nipples will be all it takes to change your mind.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Signs Super Mario Is Having a Bad Day

- 10 PETA is on his ass again about stomping on turtles.
- 9 Belligerent teens hanging outside of Bowser's Fortress point and laugh at his "Chucky" overalls again.
- 8 Killer migraine from smashing head on ceiling for hours on end.
- 7 The constant funhouse music in head starts to tell him to do things, like disembowel Toad.
- 6 After spending the weekend with Princess notices a strange rash on "Gamecubes."
- 5 Fucking shitty plumbing van broke down again forcing to him to drive humiliating Mariokart to work.
- 4 Caught neighbour's Yoshi crashing on lawn again.
- 3 Stomach-wrenching afternoon spent unclogging Bowser's toilet.
- 2 Plans to catch up on *Sopranos* episodes this weekend scrapped due to one of stupid friends getting kidnapped yet again.
- 1 Nintendo bigwigs shot down proposal for new game called *Mario's Moustache Ride*.

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The program is offered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). For more information about the criteria and application procedures, please visit CBIE's website or contact us by telephone at (613) 237-4820, ext 234 or e-mail smclanson@cbie.ca.

Application forms are available on the Internet. Printed or electronic version will be provided upon request.



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THE BURLAP SACK

January isn't only the coldest, meanest pile of trash this side of December, but it also seems to be the month of fury, making it a difficult month to find a single thing to crawl into the Burlap Sack.

Take the concern of Adrienne C., a lass in her second year who wrote from the Arts program, "Hello, you wonderful people," she writes, before mentioning that she would "love [the Gateway] for ever and ever if we put 'those horrible bottom feeders' from the Edmonton Journal into the Sack for [phoning] you every Saturday morning" in search of subcribers.

This I understand. But, what about Christopher Drake, who took the care to send us copy of a letter to the editor he intended for the National Post. He didn't quite ask if said newspaper could be in the Sack, but the first-page article the letter referred to, printed 13 January 2002 ("Dismantle the Border CEOs say"), merits a kicking like mules and horses could only dream of delivering—apparently, a phalanx of pseudo-Americans known as the Canadian Council of Chief Executives thinks it's "de fucking hell if the American-Canadian border turned into a 'simply internal checkpoint.'

Sounds like treason to me, yes, but what about the Ottawa Senators being some \$2 million in debt, and that too, being front-page news? While 420 million Canadians eat cardboard soup for breakfast and lunch, bypassing dinner due to expenses? Or what about how my mother called me last week, insisting that I sounded sad, then e-mailing a follow-up, asking if indeed it was "sad," then confirming her concerns a week later with another e-mail?

"Good candidates," you might say. And I'd say to them: into the Sack, rats—all of you.

Except for my mother, of course.

RAYMOND BIESINGER

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

'The tube is civilization'



MIKE LAU

I admit that I'm a webcomics fan.

Under the constant barrage of links my friends have sent me, I finally decided to read *penny-arcade.com* regularly, and upon browsing the archives the other day, I came across one comic that became a personal favourite of mine.

**Indeed, civilization is,
for the lack of a better
word, the pipe—
a symbol of violence,
conflict, and strife
within the world.**

Many Penny Arcade fans out there would have probably guessed which comic I'm referring to just by looking at the headline of this article, but this particular comic, a fellow named Gabe finds a tube in someone's garbage and brings it home. His friend, Tycho, calls it garbage, at which point Gabe starts delivering seven beats. Tycho quickly retracts his earlier statement and acknowledges the tube's power with the crowning statement, "The tube is civilization."

Although the comic was probably meant to be a comedy piece, that phrase got me thinking for a few hours. Indeed, civilization is, for lack of a better word, the pipe—a symbol of violence, conflict, and strife within the world.

Call me cynical if you like, but history has illustrated that every society lives and dies by the sword. The death of Remus by his own brother resulted in the birth of Rome, which is undeniably one of the greatest civilizations in history. The conquest of foreign lands

is the main reason why Rome prospered. With conquest came the influx of resources and the assimilation of new cultures. Spreading its ideas and culture, the Roman Empire laid out the basic principles of bureaucracy and government within Europe. Like its birth, Rome collapsed underneath its own militant expansionism and promptly imploded once in-fighting erupted within the walls of its own empire.

Other civilizations could be analyzed in the same way. Born from the destruction of the American Revolution, the United States is bound to the inescapable nature of civilization—from the American right to form militias, to the Civil War, and even to its current approach toward foreign affairs. France and Britain are just as guilty—the French Revolution, Napoleon's conquests, and colonialism all come to mind. Chinese history is marred with bloody wars and conflict presented by its numerous provinces and warlords.

The question that needs to be asked is why civilization is so intertwined with conflict.

Many answers could be offered; one could cite reasons of resources and the accumulation of wealth, while another could cite reasons of social change within each civilization. I, on the other hand, theorize that it's less complex than the socioeconomic reasons commonly recited in numerous textbooks and lectures. The idea of civilization conveys the messages of expansion and prosperity, which in turn conveys the messages of conquest and oppression. Civilization is violence. Civilization is conflict. Civilization is strife.

In a simplistic kind of way, life, and therefore civilization, is suffering. It is in conflict that civilizations, and ourselves, thrive and prosper, are created and destroyed. Even if major socioeconomic factors occur, the violent nature of civilization will continue; it is an unavoidable eventuality.

Did I mention that I like webcomics?

Everything's been done already, ad nauseum



CAMERON BARR

"I'm bored," I say.

"So write something," say my friends. They always say that when I'm bored. They're kind of predictable that way.

"What should I write about?" I ask. "Something original," they say, as they do every time. Very predictable of them, very unoriginal.

Therein lies the problem. Everything I can think of has been done before, and most likely better (although I'm sure someone else is doing it worse, so there goes my master plan to lowball everyone else).

There are only so many ways to weld words to a sentence, so many tones in a scale.

The problem comes down to one of numbers, of combinatorics. There are only so many ways to weld words to a sentence, so many tones in a scale. Our species, over its million-year history, bears a striking resemblance to 80 billion monkeys banging away at typewriters; occasionally, you'll get Shakespeare, but more often than not, you'll get plenty of repetitive nonsense.

Not that this is a new problem—I'll wager it's been going on for millennia. I feel the same pain felt by that Cro-Magnon who realized that not only had someone else painted Oogaa killing deer, but had done so in the exact same fucking shade of brown.

We don't make it easy on ourselves, either. Our brains are exquisitely tuned

to patterns in all that we perceive. We've created rules of grammar and of composition that force our creative endeavours into aesthetically pleasing shapes. Those who mess with the rules do so at their own peril; James Joyce may well have been a true original, but that doesn't make *Ulysses* any more readable.

The composer John Cage, feeling that music had reached the end of its creative rope, once included a stretch of silence on an album. Recently, his descendants successfully sued a composer who included a silent track on his album. I suspect that one day, far in the future, our North Korean overlords will look at the moment a man was found liable for *nothing* at all and say, "That was the day the Western imperialist culture finally collapsed."

Well, like that, but in Korea.

The University says it wants to cut down on plagiarism. How can it? We're shaped by our experiences, internalizing our influences and spewing them out onto lined paper. All of our ideas have been articulated by other greater minds, to say nothing of our fiddlings with language. What's worse, you're more likely to get good marks on an exam if you can regurgitate the text verbatim than if you come up with a wholly new and original idea.

The problem extends beyond our closest little academic world. What's going to get the green light from a movie studio: the challenging, articulate film about a working-class family struggling to stay out of poverty, or the one where, instead of a skateboarding chimp, it's a skateboarding cat?

(Hint: everyone loves kitties!)

I suppose I'm fated to come to grips with the fact that our society not only tolerates predictable, repetitive drivel, but actively rewards it. It's a depressing thought, and I'd be tempted to make some grand, romantic gesture like suicide or becoming a hermit.

Except, well, it's already been done. Dammit.

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student achievement awards



Online Love

In our modern world of mega-pixels, cable modems and webcams, a whole new mating paradise in cyber-dating has emerged as the hippest new way to find a digital honey.

F1 Whether it's casual rendezvous sites like lavalife.com, long-winded e-mail romancing, or dirty IRC (Internet Relay Chat) sessions, it's safe to say most of us have at least dabbled in one of the Internet's most scintillating applications. You can find someone online to satisfy any fetish, fantasy or fling, but how safe (and sane, for that matter) is this new promiscuous playground?

We found a few people who have gotten down and dirty with the binary to find out what you should consider before jumping on the next hyperlink to passion.

Apparently, people have had it all: casual encounters, nightmare dates, failed engagements, and even true love. Through extensive research, polling and trolling we broke down Internet relationships into three main categories: the casual dater, the long-winded e-mail romantic, and the serious liaison. Each has definite downfalls and rewards. Decide if you're really ready to take the online plunge...

The Casual Dater

Thousands of Internet sites like kiss.com, lavalife.com, and adultfriendfinder.com are the newest high-tech version of personal-ad love-seeking. Most of the sites are set up in a similar manner with members writing brief bios, exchanging photos and e-mails in the hopes of meeting up with a lovely someone close by for an encounter. Picky mates get a sneak peek at who they're fixing themselves up with so it's kind of like blind dating with a twist.

Marie Revista, a 27-year-old graduate from the U of A, has met a number of people by scouring online ads. Her reasons for choosing cyber-dating, like many, weren't out of desperation or a lack of personal skills.

"I work all the time and I never really get out of the house very much, so there's no place to meet guys besides the bar, which isn't the best," Revista says. "It's just an easy, sober way of meeting people." She's a confident, attractive, successful and charismatic woman who represents a growing number of people who are on the web not out of desperation but because it seems like a great way to meet people when hectic schedules make any other way difficult.

For busy students already accustomed to doing so much online, the step towards dating is a pretty small one; however, as Revista states, it isn't always a better alternative to traditional avenues.

"It usually goes from the Internet to the phone and then you can be talking for hours and hours which makes you so comfortable that you completely let your guard down," Revista continues. "You forget that this person is a stranger and you have never even met face to face."

So, while at first it may seem like a safer alternative to blind dating or picking up someone on the dance floor, the same anonymity that makes the Internet

so alluring and open can also make it very dangerous. "You can get to know somebody pretty intimately pretty quickly when you get to hide behind a computer screen, but I don't know if it's very honest either."

Unfortunately, the closeness that develops by exchanging personal details can be treacherous. As Revista explains, "Someone is far more likely to be truthful with you face-to-face than they are hiding behind a screen." It is very easy to be deceptive about anything from income and interests to personal appearance. A false sense of closeness lures in many people before they even realize what has happened. "For all you know, they could have their friend's picture posted and be someone totally different than they seem to be."

Besides the obvious danger of falling into something you aren't prepared for, Revista elaborates that simply the mounting expectations from getting to know someone well before you ever meet can just lead to heartache.

"It's so much different from just randomly meeting someone and talking," she reveals. "When you use the Internet, you have more expectations. You think you're doing it better this way and then you meet them and it's usually very disappointing."

Of course, not all of Revista's experiences have been bad ones. She's met a good friend, and offers to anyone looking to dabble in the digital realm of intimacy some pretty simple advice: "If you want to do it, you have to be fairly serious about meeting somebody, because a lot of people just do it as a game." Don't deceive, check out what information you can about a person to verify they are telling you the truth, and if you do decide to meet up, bring some friends along just in case Mr Perfect has lied to you about something more sinister than the size of his bandwidth.



The E-mail Romantic

Version 2.0 of Internet dating is a little more involved than grabbing a cup of java a week after meeting online. The full-fledged Internet relationship is another form of dating that seems to appeal to an entirely different group of young people. This category is filled with people who spend months, even years, exchanging the most detailed of personal desires before ever meeting, if at all. It's a megabyte up from casual dating, and with higher stakes inevitably comes higher costs.

Susan Donym described herself as "a young, insecure, slightly pudgy girl" when she first became involved in a long-winded three-year relationship with an older man that eventually led to an engagement and her moving her life to Missouri to be with him. Initially, she explains, the lure of an intense relationship came from the comfort found in the anonymity and openness the Internet offers.

"I became this rabid Internet addict because there was a beauty to no one every knowing what I really looked like, and there are lots of men on the Internet who are interested in every self-indulgent thing you have to say," she remarks.

"It is easier to feel that you know someone online because there's no pretense; there's no physical awkwardness," Donym continues. "You can go on the computer in your pajamas and, in half an hour, feel as sexy as you ever could in a bar." Inevitably the same comfort that comes from computer-enhanced relations also leads to an unrealistic closeness between people who wouldn't have chemistry or even give one another a second glance on the street. Which leaves the question, is it healthy to get involved with a partner you could never really be with? Donym says she now regrets her decisions and advises anyone tampering with the idea

to really think twice.

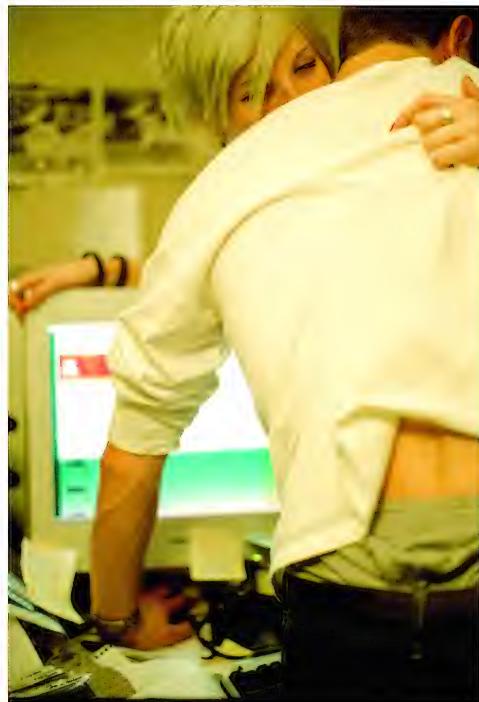
"People want to think desperately they will be attracted to one another but when you do end up meeting in person, they could be really fat, really ugly, or just not smell right," she laughs. "There is so much human interaction that comes from just looking at the way someone communicates, uses their hands, smells and touches that you just can't get from a computer."

By separating so many normal aspects of human sexuality from the love equation, she claims people are putting themselves in serious danger that will inevitably lead to those involved getting hurt.

"It's one thing if there is someone who's near and you can verify their personality by meeting right away, and something altogether far more dangerous to get into an emotional attachment to someone who is just a projection of whatever you want to believe."

She offers it really isn't possible to maintain a healthy long-distance relationship with a handle on a screen and an electronic picture due to the unavoidable distortion inherent to liaisons that leave so much to the imagination. "Basically you're communicating with the best aspects of yourself because you are projecting those aspects onto the person, and that's how they begin to seem perfect, which they obviously are not."

Her advice is pretty simple: "Don't do it." If you are going to meet someone, do it as soon as you feel comfortable, but don't fall into the trap of melodrama and poetry or you're in for a world of disillusionment when the fantasy turns out to be just that—a fantasy.



"You can get to know somebody pretty intimately pretty quickly when you get to hide behind a computer screen, but I don't know if it's very honest either."

-MARIE REVISTA, INTERNET CASUAL DATER

"Basically you're communicating with the best aspects of yourself because you are projecting those aspects onto the person, and that's how they begin to seem perfect, which they obviously are not."

-SUSAN DONYM, AN E-MAIL ROMANTIC

"I just figured the world was such a huge place that there was no reason my soulmate was necessarily going to be someone I could find at the neighbourhood pub."

-BEN NEWMAN, SUCCESSFUL ONLINE LIAISON

The Serious Liaison

The final group in our study involved an older, more serious crowd who have begun to romp the "Net looking for nothing less than a soulmate fit to marry. Entirely different from the middle-aged men looking for a sweet young college girl to violate, and not so whimsically romantic as the e-mail chat addicts, these people are quite serious about scouring all over the world for a perfect match.

"My life basically centres around a very small group of people and I wasn't finding the right lady in my modest social circles," explains Ben Newman of his reasons for jumping into online dating. "I just figured the world was such a huge place that there was no reason my soulmate was necessarily going to be someone I could find at the neighbourhood pub."

It turns out his notion may just have been right. Newman found his equal, Melissa Clearie, four years ago, and after she moved to Edmonton from Toronto last year, the two married. So, it seems not every virtual reality love story ends in virtual disaster. "The key for us was that we were both serious, mature and knew exactly what we were looking for," Newman states. "We weren't out to play games and were completely honest with one another from the start, so when things moved from screen to off, we knew what we were getting into."

Newman continues, "I can see how kids using the Internet as a game can definitely open themselves up to getting hurt, but, if you trust your instincts, it

can be a beautiful way of expanding your possibilities to find someone wonderful."

For him, the gamble was worth the reward and all the preliminary time the two spent travelling, chatting and calling has only made the relationship stronger.

"I knew it was going to be hard and it was, but that almost made me more sure that it was right," Newman explains. "If I still wanted Melissa even though we were thousands of miles apart, and it meant risking everything, and that was completely worth it, then it was obviously right."

It seems digital rapture isn't a pointless endeavour for some who are seriously looking to invest. Don't expect it to be easy, though. Even Newman admits he was incredibly disappointed with many of the women he encountered before his wife. There were psychos, stalkers, oddballs and nymphomaniacs, but in the end, it was worth sifting through to find a real lover in the end.

The moral of this story: don't expect anyone to drop from the Netscape gods into your lap tomorrow. Whether you're a cyber flint queen dating for fun, a spectacular romantic or one of the lucky few, you can expect a million duds downloading before you ever get to the goods. Regardless, the gamble seems worth it to thousands as more and more of your friends, neighbours and bitter ex's sign in every day.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Downway

with Wisconsin and 10 Second Epic
New City Livin' Lounge
Friday, 17 January at 8pm

The new New City Compound presents Downway, an up-and-coming punk band from Calgary. Downway formed out of the dissolution of two other bands, S.P.I. and Blind hate, in 1995.

The four young members of Downway have stuck together since then, and they now have three albums and several successful tours under their belts. Recent successes include three of their songs being included in the Xbox game, *Transworld Snowboarding*.



The Downway pay homage to Colt 45.

Ian Tyson

Horizon Stage (Spruce Grove)
16 & 17 January at 7:30pm

Canadian legend and folk hero Ian Tyson is lending his presence to the Horizon Stage in Spruce Grove.

Tyson is probably best known for his song "Four Strong Winds," the traditional closing song to the Edmonton Folk Festival. Although he's no longer with his ex-wife Sylvia Tyson or his backup group Great Speckled Bird—and he's a bit more country than folk—Tyson still keeps playing if an audience is there to hear him.

The Frozen Heart (Das gefrorene Herz)

Metro Cinema
Friday, 17 January at 7pm

A three-way über co-production between Germany, Austria and Switzerland, this 1979 film is about a friendship between an umbrella mender and a basket maker in rural Europe.

When the umbrella mender freezes to death in the forest, it is up to the basket maker to make sure his friend receives a proper funeral. In the process, he meets the dead man's girlfriend. And she gives him a life lesson in love—with sexy results, no doubt.



Do you have what it takes for HeroClix?

Marvel HeroClix Tournament

Wizard's Comics and Games
Saturday, 18 January at 12pm

Geekier than Magic: The Gathering but not quite as geeky as Warhammer, HeroClix is a game where small figures are pitted against each other. Each figure represents a super hero in the Marvel or DC Universe and each character has different stats and power levels.

The officially sanctioned tournament is exclusively based on the Marvel Universe and has prizes like rare figures straight from the manufacturer.

DANIEL KASZKOWSKI
 Circulation Manager

Metallica in trouble with Metallica

JAMES ELPORD
 Arts & Entertainment Writer

Wearing little more than a huge rock-hair wig, Speedos and a leopard-print vest, local musician Blair Piggott munches on a banana that had been stuffed down his pants moments earlier and rambles on thoughtfully about music, fun, and what it means to be threatened with a lawsuit by a once-great band.

"I am surprised. I never thought anyone would find out about a little town like Edmonton, Alberta," he laughs. "We just figured no one would pay attention, but obviously somebody has."

Blair is talking about his band's recent induction into the steadily growing legion of people who have been threatened with court action by the ever-diligent California-based Metallica. The problem? They are upset with the Edmonton-based band's choice of name: Metallica.

In a letter from the Los Angeles law firm of Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, the original band is demanding that their local counterparts cease using the name (as well as anything "confusingly similar") amongst other conditions, and has given them until Friday to agree.

"Your use of METALLICA is particularly astonishing to the band, given that you have admitted in at least one interview that 'you know that you are not allowed to use the name,'" stated the cease-and-desist notice. While the lawyers claim the original Metallica wants this to end amicably, Piggott does express some concern with the letter. "What if we want to change the name to something like Metardica," asks Blair. "Is that OK?"

University of Alberta law professor Wayne Reinke notes that because the more famous Metallica has trademarked the name, they are in a very strong position from which to make demands. "They've been working for years to build this name," explains Reinke. "And they want to protect the distinctiveness of the band."

Piggott ignores rumours that the band's name was chosen as a publicity stunt, insisting that it



PROUD PIGGOTT "Metallica" frontman in full battle garb.

was more of a whim than a well-thought-out plan.

"Well, me and Pat were just joking around on the phone and I said, 'Let's just call ourselves Metallica,' and we just laughed," explains Piggott. Blair claims that Pat called him back a few days later and said that he liked the idea. "I said, 'I was joking about that,' and my first feeling was, that's gonna get us in a lot of shit, but then I thought life's too short to worry so let's do it and see where it takes us. Let's have some fun and live for the moment."

When their transgression was finally discovered, Blair was more excited than disappointed. "I sent their lawyer a letter saying, 'we're totally stoked that you found out about us.' We'd be really happy if you guys would review our MP3s and send back some comments. I really like the song 'Harvester of Sorrow'."

The band's distinctly cocky and troublesome attitude comes through in their habit of blitzing, where the band sets up their instruments

and plays a quick set usually without permission. They've already hit SUB, a 7-11, and a house party. For them, this habit is part of a larger outlook on their music.

"Being a band is more than just the music; it's about getting people together and having fun and breaking shit," insists Blair. "For me, there should be a connection to the music and to the fans... to people who are too scared to sing with us up on stage, so we drag them up on stage. The music is secondary, if we can make somebody feel good for a night, and forget their problems, even for a little bit..."

For the present, however, the local Metallica seems ready to acquiesce. "I think what I really want to do is play a couple more gigs under the Metallica name and see how far we can push it."

However, the threat of Metallica's expensive lawyers and the potential ramifications of continued resistance seem a bit too much for Blair and company. "I never really wanted this to be something that keeps me up at night."

Asian Persuasion invades PowerPlant

Chi-Sun: The Asian Persuasion

aka Carson Ho
The PowerPlant
Saturday, 18 January

ADAM ROZENHART
 Entertainment Editor

Canadian-born Chi-Sun is no stranger to music. At the tender age of 17, he struck his way in to a Big Sugar show at the Rev where he witnessed Gordie Johnson work his magic on guitar. At that point, he knew he had to learn to play the guitar.

Only staying in lessons for three months, Chi-Sun continued to jam with friends, and eventually moved into playing a variety of common and eclectic instruments.

"I moved on to bass, then drums, and then I won up one day and I figured I really loved hip hop," says Chi-Sun. It obviously wasn't as simple as that, but Chi-Sun steered his tastes toward hip hop, all the while incorporating his musical talents into his music. Learning to play the *ubru* (Chinese violin), the *Gu Jiang* (Chinese harp) and the cello, Chi-Sun combined his range with the rhymes of hip hop.

"You can add so many different styles to [hip hop]," he notes. "Some of my songs have Spanish guitar, classical guitar; some are kind of rock; there are some electronic elements, and some scratching."

Although Chi-Sun hasn't entirely incorporated Chinese instruments into his stage show, he got the idea because he'd grown up with whole life listening to traditional Chinese music played by his parents. However, he wanted to



PERSUASION TAKES THOUGHT Chi-Sun, aka Carson Ho, writes songs in his home studio.

add his own spin to things and play something distinctly unique.

"I wanted to transfer it to something current instead of Chinese Disco," he laughs.

But Chi-Sun isn't limiting himself to hip hop. His show at the PowerPlant on Saturday will include martial arts and breakdancing to give the audience the extra visual treat.

"It's just a full entertainment deal," he boasts, enthusiastically. "It's part of my full show that I want to give people—to entertain people, so they can see part of my Chinese heritage." Chi-Sun, a big fan of Jackie Chan movies, plans on incorporating some of the "Drunken Master" style into his stage show.

Chi-Sun's enthusiasm is apparent when he dis-

cusses his music, and though he graduated with a degree in education from the U of A, he calls music his real passion.

"[Music] has been my hobby," he says frankly. "I've been doing it in all my spare time, and if I can do it for a living that would be the greatest. I want to travel around the world and this is the perfect vehicle for that."

With high hopes, Chi-Sun will be filming Saturday's entire show on the chance that the product will play a role in securing a deal with a record company. You could witness the outbreak of up-and-coming hip hop culture. And maybe a few years down the road, you can regale your friends with your tale of having seen the Asian Persuasion at its inception.



A scene from the Nathan Morlando-directed COUNTDOWN.

Metro short shorts a worthwhile watch

Three Short Films

shot by André Turpin
Metro Cinema
17–18 January at 9pm

PETER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Québécois cinematographer André Turpin has three short films featured at Metro Cinema this weekend. Could this be a worthwhile time to spend an evening this weekend? Well, let me tell you...

Liquid Love
Directed by Nadine Schwartz

This is a stylistic look at the emotional journeys leading two lovers to engagement. But it's really more style, than substance. The imagery, combining nature and passion with a decidedly in-your-face score, is stirring and at times unsettling. But the actual plot? Certain themes are touched on, like the fearfulness of the modern love-sex combination, the isolation of lovers in relation to surrounding friends, the use of art as expression in the face of insecurity and the gap between the perception of us now and forever, all were pushed aside in favour of love scenes and flowers in equal proportion. Why?

The occasional clever metaphor of nature expressing passion and freedom does not justify the severe lack of characterization or insight in a film so neatly dealing with important issues, but not.

Atomic Sack
Directed by Louise Archambault

Three young women, one night with sake, three truths, one story, told three times from each one's perspective.



Slick Shoes
Self-titled
Tooth & Nail/EML
wwwslickshoes.net

ALEX KONYE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Remember Ricky "Data" Wang. He was ahead of his time—precocious and comically ethnic, he'd invent gadgets to earn his honour with the treasure-hunt-

The use of camera angles is spot on: panning for scenes of the close friendship, short and sharp for those of intensity, simple and stable for setting the pace of love. There is an incredible level of characterization of the three ladies considering how little time was available. With each telling, a new aspect of the character in focus is shown, a new perspective on the friendship as a whole is given and a further piece of the truth, arriving all three, is revealed. And not a cliché in sight. *Atomic Sack* is a well-executed, blunt look at the role of honesty within friendships.

COUNTDOWN
Directed by Nathan Morlando

Judging from the reactions of those at the screening, this is one for the men. This is not your typical art-house film. It's about a bicycle courier who dreams of becoming an action film star and his opportunistic method of trying to make it happen.

Playing between the surreal, the past and the present, this film shows where he's coming from, how he's trying to get there, the realization that it's not as he thought.

However, this film is just good—not great. A fantastic opening fight scene, an interesting look at the fighting instinct of man, and a well done take on commitment, persistence and taking risks all make this worth watching, but why the shred of a love story? It was the equivalent of putting a dead body in a casket and sticking it into a chick flick—decide which sex you're primarily targeting and forget the other, I say.

Forget about the first short, but the second two make for interesting viewing. Maybe this is a worthwhile trip to spend your weekend.

ing Goonies. The guy (Ke Huy Quan) who played him is appearing in an upcoming triple-threat celebrity-boxing match with "Chunk" and "Sloth." I digress.

Unlike Mr "Data" Wang, the power/punkheads Slick Shoes fail to deliver the goods when I need them the most. The other day, I was being pursued when I came upon a "precarious plank over cascading water"; the oil hidden in my soles wouldn't burn, resulting in my metaphorical capture at the hands of the evil Fratelli family (read: boring audio experience).

I'd advise the Slick Shoes camp to align itself with a hip cartoon producer, Good Charlotte beat them to the punch; doodled gibbons with harmonicas would sound better. Descent into mediocrity is obviously lightning fast.

Solos shows life through dance

Brian Webb Dance Company Presents:

Cori Caulfield's *Portrait Solos*
John Haar Theatre (10045–156 Street)
17–18 January at 8pm

RYAN WILMAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Those of you familiar with the psychiatric phenomenon "traces" would not find it unusual to consider a moving body as a painterbrush.

Indeed, this concept brings to mind nights on beaches drawing shapes in the dark with the glowing tips of sticks. Now suppose that you put this metaphorical brush into the very talented and capable control of professional dance choreographer Cori Caulfield. The result is a presentation of warped artistic portraits worthy of any painting done in Europe.

"Dance, to me, is a concentration of life," Caulfield claims. "If a picture says a thousand words, a body moving in space should speak volumes—a solidify a second, whole biographies in the bat of an eye."

Portrait Solos is a program choreographed and performed by the Port Moody native Cori Caulfield. It includes six solos that are all very different.

"Each one is a different character," notes Caulfield. "In a way, they are paintings that move, that suggest a time, place, emotion, personage, and then they are gone. You only get brief glimpses."

Caulfield brings her gallery of portraits alive through her extensive background of study in dance. Caulfield has studied all over the world and has established herself as a renowned artist in Vancouver, Beijing, Montréal, Toronto and New York. Her efforts have afforded her the titles of Senator, Balle Provincial Representative and Provincial Ballet Champion. Caulfield's repertoire as choreographer also includes works such as *To Sono Dolce Morosa*, which spiced dance technique with nineteenth century opera, and *Party Girl*, whose main character was a living juxtaposition of body and lyricism.

Caulfield has built a reputation for including a full range of artistic media in her dance productions with the help of her friends Mark Taylor and Mary Berezowsky. The three have a collaborative history together which spawned from their original meeting when Caulfield taught their children dance at her School of Dance in Port Moody.

Taylor has developed soundscape for a number of Caulfield performances while Berezowsky designs costumes.

The combined efforts of these three artists yield performances that have been described as pure, telling and distinctive. Their most recent efforts in *Portrait Solos* strives to compress the smallest details of expression into six individual diamonds of elegance and brazen honesty.

**BODY MOVING SPEAKS VOLUMES** Cori Caulfield dances in *Portrait Solos*.

ums in her dance productions with the help of her friends Mark Taylor and Mary Berezowsky. The three have a collaborative history together which spawned from their original meeting when Caulfield taught their children dance at her School of Dance in Port Moody.

Taylor has developed soundscape for a number of Caulfield performances while Berezowsky designs costumes. The combined efforts of these three artists yield performances that have been described as pure, telling and distinctive. Their most recent efforts in *Portrait Solos* strives to compress the smallest details of expression into six individual diamonds of elegance and brazen honesty.

In *Portrait Solos* Caulfield embodies

the role of a portraitist based on her strong beliefs in the power of the metaphor. The success of *Portrait Solos* depends on the audiences identification with the metaphors Caulfield is representing, thereby forging an immediate and intimate connection with the audience.

When Caulfield dances, she's looking for what she calls the "involuntary shudder" as a reaction from her audience.

"Condensed beyond language, dance can evoke sympathizing that is not only emotional but visceral. I am mining for the empathetic response—the shock of recognition."

Caulfield's *Portrait Solos* is the poetry of movement, and it says more than any picture ever could.

Grammy predictions bleak, sad

KRIS BEREZANSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

And the Winner is... April?

Last year's Grammy's had a hope of redemption with unpredictable nominees and *O Brother, Where Art Thou* winning for best album of the year.

This year? The Grammys have sunk even lower into a pit that recalls the blasphemous nominations of boy bands and lip-synchers in the 1990s.

It may just be my lack of patriotism, but why should we be happy that Canadian artists have been nominated if their music is bland and boring? Two examples of the phenomenon include Nickelback and Avril Lavigne.

On one hand you have the cookie-cutter rock band who show no spark of originality in their "I'm sad, Daddy's drunk" ditties. On the other is a fabricated female singer made to look like a rebellious alternative to the Britney and Christina's of the world. Lavigne, whose idiol until two years ago was Shania Twain, is up for Song of the Year and Best New Artist.

Also up for a handful of awards this year is Eminem. Ever since he performed with Elton John at the 2002 Grammy's, he's become their poster-

boy. They can't seem to get enough, but does he have enough support from middle-aged men to get the votes? He probably doesn't care, and I find myself wondering if he'll show up at all like Alicia Keys did last year.

The big underdog seems to be Norah Jones with her album *Come Away With Me*; her soft-rock pseudo-jazz will probably be huge with the voters and she could easily come out on top like Alicia Keys did last year.

The huge glaring omission from this year's Grammys is Wilco's *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, which has the perfect story for a Grammy nomination. Deemed not commercial enough to be released by Warner's Reprise label, Wilco re-sold it to Warner's offshoot, Nonesuch, effectively being paid twice for the same music. It ended up being their best-selling album ever. I thought they might have been the underdog candidate, but I guess Norah Jones is just too good.

Not all is lost, though. A few categories show that some people in the Grammy world know what's going on, most notably in the Best Soundtrack category: *Y Tu Mamá También* and *Six Feet Under* are up for awards. But *I Am Sam*, with its Beatles covers should

prevail.

For alternative music, Coldplay has once again been nominated (they won last year) and should be a shoo-in for a repeat. It would be nice to see Beck walk away with an award for *Sea Change*, but Coldplay has taken over the world with *A Rush of Blood to the Head*'s sensible pop melodies.

Other notable nominations in various categories include Queens of the Stone Age for "No One Knows" in the Metal category, along with System of a Down's "Aerials." Look for the Flaming Lips to take Best Instrumental Performance and Clinic for Best Alternative Album.

Another bizarre trend this year is the awards committee making up for lost time: in the Best Rock Song category, Bruce Springsteen is the youngest honoree. Even Sting is up for an award again for a live song that was originally released up ten years ago. The Boss is up for a few other awards, too; nothing like post-ternor albums to liven that patriotic spirit.

Now that you have the lowdown, you don't have to watch the Grammy's. I sure won't. Then again, maybe you'll all want something to bitch about until the Oscars.

Why films shouldn't cast marsupials

Kangaroo Jack

Directed by David McNally
Starring Jerry O'Connell,
Anthony Anderson, Estella Warren,
and Christopher Walken
Starts Friday, 17 January

DANIEL KASZOR
Circus Manager

Very few movies are so ultimately moronic that I come out of the theatre realizing I am dumber than when I entered.

Juwanna Mann was one. So was Slacker. And now joining that illustrious pedigree is the latest turd from Jerry Bruckheimer's production house: Kangaroo Jack.

Let's sum up the "plot." Charlie (Jerry O'Connell) is a hairdresser in New York City who always gets into wacky trouble with his buddy Louis (Anthony Anderson). You see, Louis saved Charlie's life when he was a kid and Charlie always feels obligated to help Louis out (cuz obligatory end-of-movie Louis-life-saving-by-Charlie scene and subsequent re-affirmation of friendship).

During one of Charlie and Louis' zany hijinks (which may have caused the deaths of several police officers; we're not told) and the sequence



KANGAROO KAPER Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson posing with what they believe is a dead kangaroo.

was so "zany" and "wacky" that we aren't supposed to ask, the duo accidentally costs Charlie's mobster stepfather (Christopher Walken) \$4.5 million. The mob boss gives them one last chance to prove themselves: a mission to take \$50 000 to a man in Australia. While in Australia, they hit a kangaroo with their jeep, and while taking "amazing" pictures of themselves posing with the creature's corpse, they realize that it isn't dead. By that time, the kangaroo has run off with Louis' jacket—the same jacket that contains the \$50 000.

The saddest thing about this movie is the fact that Jerry O'Connell seems intent on making films that suck. He

has grown to be so much more than just the fat kid in Stand By Me (that means that I think Sliders was pretty good and that in no way do I feel at all ashamed about it). Sure, he seems to be doing OK on Crossing Jordan, but O'Connell could be doing much better.

Oh yes, and Estella Warren (*Planet of the Apes, Driven*) is in this movie as well. She doesn't do anything notable except act even more poorly than O'Connell's last leading lady, Shannon Elizabeth.

As for good things about the movie, there aren't really any. I guess the movie could be commended for having a plot that makes sense. And the spe-

cial effects were OK. The movie is also thankfully short. However, none of these things made me want to stab my eyes out any less.

You might think you want to see Kangaroo Jack because it is laughably bad. It isn't. It is just bad. Honestly.

You will have more fun carving Latvian proverbs into your arm, if you really want to see a movie that's bad, try renting *Firestorm* starring Howie Long. If you want to watch a movie that's so bad it's awesome, watch *Collision Course* starring Jay Leno and Pat Morita (*The Karate Kid's* Mr Miyagi). If you want to have children with below average intelligence, see *Kangaroo Jack*.

SITE UNSEEN



<http://quiz.ravenblack.net/video-game.pl>

ALEX KONYE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Analysts of the world, cheer up! You needn't concern yourselves with tens of dozens of hours on the couch, blathering on with uncaring Dr Philistines! I have found the site for you. All you need to do is visit quiz.ravenblack.net/video-game.pl. What pre-1985 video-game character am I?

Rather than probe your unreliable (and boring) memories, or wade through the neurotic morsass you call "life," a simple questionnaire will assign you a game-character that fits your profile. Check as many boxes as you like, and if you don't like the results, cheat.

Apparently, I'm an Asteroid. I am a drifter. I go where life leads, which makes me usually a very calm and content sort of person—that or thoroughly apathetic. Usually, I keep on doing whatever I'm doing, and it takes something special to make me change my mind.

I mean, my God! It's as if you've cracked open my skull, scooped out my gooey brain-pulp, and laid it out for me, sans jargon. Thanks.



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DANIEL KASZOR
Circulation Manager

Kobayashi Maru! Get your Marshmallows ready and set phasers to awesome. These two quality Playmates' brand Star Trek: The Next Generation toys circa 1993 make sure that you are ten degrees of rad and 50 degrees of cool.

The tricorder can make the familiar wooooowooooo noise as well as a beep beep and boop boop noise. The type-2 phaser will set for a short burst or an elongated blast.

However you can't set the phaser with a little dial between stun and kill like Riker did in the season-three episode "The Vengeance Factor."

I acquired these gadgets on an away mission to the planet "Radical." The Gorn had just jumped through a time portal to Earth's Depression Era. There, a battle between a young Hitler and a robot named "Data" took place. An improbability field collapsed in the next town, and Hitler and the robot turned into a phaser and tricorder. The Gateway thus acquired these items.

The Gorn is still missing.

JAN 20 — TO — JAN 24

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MICHAEL SCHWANDT
The Ubyssey

VANCOUVER (CUP) — This week in Vancouver, dozens of artists will be rocking for a cause. The eighth annual Vancouver Rock For Choice, which began on Wednesday, continues through to Sunday at venues throughout the city. The event includes a series of six concerts and will raise funds for Everywoman's Health Centre and the Elizabeth Bagshaw Clinic.

Event organizer Denise Sheppard hopes that Rock For Choice will also raise awareness of issues pertaining to reproductive rights.

"We like to call it info-tainment," says Sheppard. "While raising money is obviously an important thing in a day and age where clinics are getting their funding cut time after time, what's equally important is to invite people of all ages and all demographics to try to raise awareness and plant seeds of optimism."

Rock For Choice organizers feel combining the arts with political activi-

ism is a strategy that has proven successful in the past.

"If you think of some of the biggest sources of fundraising for politics, I think of Live Aid, I think of Sub City fundraising. I think of 'We Are The World,'" Sheppard says.

She goes on to explain that music also has the power to draw attention, as well as people, to political issues.

"We like to call it info-tainment."

DENISE SHEPPARD,
ROCK FOR CHOICE ORGANIZER

"If you decide to infuse music and politics, you are in a better position to not just preach to the converted, but also to teach people who have an interest but want to find a place to put it."

Rock For Choice has expanded in many ways since its 1995 inception. This year's event includes more evenings of music than in previous years, with concerts held in an expanded

array of locations.

The long list of performers includes Neil Osborne of 54-40, Operation Makeout, the Be Good Tanyas, Carolyn Mark, Lost Tribes of the Sun, Submission Hold, the Gossips, and the Organ—artists representing many genres.

The type of venues selected ensure that a dialogue can be established between the performers and attendees, who effectively become participants rather than simple spectators.

"We have big artists in small venues so that people can feel like they're part of something special and intimate," Sheppard explains of sites such as the Vancouver Cultural Centre, Video In Studies and Sonar—"where the artist is able to freely talk to the audience about what's important to them."

Sheppard stresses the importance of involving people of varied ages in Rock For Choice. Nearly all of the concert will be held at all-ages venues, ensuring that younger people are able to attend and take part in the event.

"Maybe people who are 13, 14 or 15 will come, find out a little bit about certain issues that are affecting possible future choice options," she says. "People will then grow up and hopefully realize how important it is. That's one of our mandates."

A new addition to Rock For Choice is a day-long conference held at Simon Fraser University's Harbour Centre campus.

"This is the first year of our conference, [so] we like the idea that it will, hopefully, continue," says Sheppard.

The conference will include workshops on a wide range of topics, as well as speakers from Vancouver clinics, an appearance by Olympia-based activist Nomy Lamm and a film screening (Group, starring Carrie Brownstein of Sleater-Kinney), a former Rock for Choice performer.

"Definitely, there's lots of entertainment. There's lots of political activism going on," says the co-chair of the inaugural conference, admission to which will be by donation. "It's just totally open to everybody."



PROBLEM

Tuition Fees

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Student Involvement Recognition Awards

The Students' Union provides awards to those students who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of student life on campus through involvement in clubs, fraternities, faculty associations, volunteerism, and leadership at the University of Alberta and throughout the community.

Complete Application Package Deadline: Monday, February 3, 2003, 5:00 p.m. Submit to 2-900 SUB.

Alberta Treasury Branches Involvement Award*

(\$500.00 award)
Must be enrolled in a business related program (i.e. B.Com., B.A. in Economics) and a Canadian Citizen who has been a resident of Alberta for 5 years. Priority will be given to students in financial need. Must include a copy of most current transcript with application.

Anne Louise Mundell Humanitarian Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must be involved in charity/volunteer work and be an active member of a club contributing to the development of the arts and culture on campus.

Crystal Mar Memorial Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must be a full-time student who has contributed to the greater campus community and demonstrates compassion towards fellow students. Priority will be given to students involved in a campus safety organization.

Dean Mortensen Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must show strong participation and leadership in campus recreation and intramural programs and have contributed toward a safer and more secure campus atmosphere.

Dr. Randy Gregg Athletics Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must be involved in athletics, demonstrate strong leadership skills, and contribute to student life at the University of Alberta.

Eugene L. Brody Award*

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must have made a valuable contribution in extra-curricular campus activities; academic standing is a consideration in determining the winner. Must include a copy of most current transcript with application.

Hilda Wilson Volunteer Recognition Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

For further information contact Kelly Herregods, Academic Affairs Coordinator at
2-900 SUB, 492-4236, aac@su.ualberta.ca

Each applicant or nominee is required to submit:

1. A completed application form
2. A recent transcript, if necessary
3. A brief two page resumé
4. Two letters of reference and
5. A three hundred word statement explaining why they qualify for the award. (500 words for Award of Excellence)

All Applicants must be full members of the Students' Union. Application forms are available at the reception desk at 2-900 SUB, CAB, SUB and HUB Info Booths, Faculty Association Offices and www.su.ualberta.ca. Only one application form is required for all awards, (with the exception of the SU Award for Excellence and the Gold Key Award) up to a maximum of three awards.

Students' Union Award For Excellence*

(\$1500.00 and a medallion)

Must be in their graduating year, have attained a minimum GPA of 7.5 in ten (10) full courses, or their equivalent taken within the previous two (2) years, be involved in extra-curricular activities in the University and/or community, demonstrate an ability to work well with students, staff, and the general public. Must include a copy of most current transcript with application.

Subway Sandwiches Award *

(Possibly two \$500.00 awards)

Must be a student in a full time program leading to an undergraduate degree and maintain a strong academic standing. One award may be given to a student actively employed with Subway (SUB or Newton Place locations only) and one award to a non-Subway employee. This award criteria is pending Students' Council ratification.

Tevie Miller Involvement Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must be an active member of a club or association at the University of Alberta and demonstrate strong leadership skills. The candidate may not receive a salary or honorarium from the said club or association.

Tom Lancaster Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must have made an outstanding contribution to student life on campus through dedication and strong commitment to others and have shown active involvement and leadership in the Students' Union through volunteer work or participation within a Students' Union club or service.

Walter A. Dinwoodie Award

(\$750.00, \$150.00 U of A Bookstore Gift Certificate and an engraved plaque)

Must have made an outstanding contribution to student life through active volunteer work for a public service club registered with the Students' Union and/or a Student Union Service. Persons who receive a salary, honorarium, or any other monetary remuneration for their work in the above organizations shall not be eligible to receive this award.

* Transcript required. Please note that transcripts can take up to five days.

You could be eligible for an award worth **\$500 - \$1500**

**Students' Union Involvement Award Applications
now available**

Pick yours up at: 2-900 SUB, Info Desks, Faculty Association Offices
and on-line at www.su.ualberta.ca

Deadline for applications: **February 3, 2003 at 5:00 PM**

SALUTE

Students' Union Award for Leadership in Undergraduate Teaching

SALUTE was developed by Students' Council to promote and encourage excellence in teaching by recognizing faculty members who make outstanding contributions in their roles as undergraduate instructors at the University of Alberta.

Eligibility

All instructors of undergraduate courses are eligible for nomination. Nominees for the Award should have taught a minimum of three *3 sections, one of which has been taught in the current academic year.

Nomination

All nominations must be made by students. Information regarding a professor's eligibility can be obtained from the Department office and will be verified by the Students' Union. Nominations must include signatures of support from at least ten current students. Maximum three letters of support from faculty, alumni and students may be included.

All nominations are strictly confidential and will be made available to the selection committee only.

Criteria

Understanding that outstanding teachers come in all shapes and sizes, there is no strict eligibility criteria and we encourage nominations which you, as a student, feel are worthy of recognition.

Examples include:

- generates a desire for continued learning
- availability outside of the classroom
- respects differences in student approaches to learning
- is flexible enough to accomodate differences in the rate of student learning
- displays role-model characteristics
- communicates clearly
- is organized and prepared for lectures
- is sympathetic to student concerns and lifestyles
- has developed appropriate lectures, readings, assignments and exams
- demonstrates fair and consistent assessment of course work
- has good knowledge of subject matter and awareness of new information
- inspires critical thinking
- acts as a student advisor in department
- contributes to development of teaching and learning in the greater university community.

Application Deadline: Monday, February 3, 2003, 5:00 p.m.
For further information contact Catherine van de Braak at 492-4236.

Application packages are available at the Students' Union Executive offices (room 2-900 SUB), SUB, CAB, and HUB Info Desks, Faculty Association Offices and at www.su.ualberta.ca.

Gold Key Recognition Award

Who Has Made the Campus a Great Place?

The Students' Union would like your help in identifying those individuals who have contributed to the improvement of life on campus or in the community. If you are, or know of, a student, staff member, or other individual who has shown exceptional dedication in one or more areas of the university, or community at large, we would like to pay tribute to them.

This tribute is in the form of a Gold Key Recognition Award which will be presented at the Students' Union Awards Night on Tuesday, March 25, 2003.

Recognizing Excellence

The Students' Union Gold Key Award was created by the Students' Union President Tevie Miller in 1950 and was intended to recognize the best on campus-those who contributed most to making the University of Alberta a better place-for their outstanding work in extra-curricular activities. This honour was bestowed on those people who had contributed greatly to the campus community. Thus a group was formed which was related to all campus organizations. The Gold Key Society was involved in a wide variety of events, it entertained visitors, and acted as ambassadors for the university. The Gold Key Society lapsed in 1970 and was revived in 1990 to recognize the large number of people who have contributed to campus and community life, and to provide them with an opportunity to continue to contribute to the university. In the tradition of the original Gold Key Society, members assist with the Society's mission wherever and whenever possible.

All members of the campus community are eligible for the award with the exception of the Students' Union Executive. The Gold Key Awards Committee shall have the discretion to award a number of Gold Key Recognition Awards. Notwithstanding other involvements, participation in Student Government, Volunteer Activities, Student Organizations, Student Services, and Community Involvement may be considered. To be eligible for the award, an individual must:

1. Be nominated or submit an application;
2. Not have previously received this award.

Application Deadline: Monday, February 3, 2003 5:00 p.m.

Submit to 2-900 SUB.
For further information contact Catherine van de Braak at 2-900 SUB, 492-4236.

Application packages are available at the Students' Union Executive offices (room 2-900 SUB), SUB, CAB, and HUB Info Desks, Faculty Association Offices and at www.su.ualberta.ca.

Confidentiality will be respected.



SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 16 january 2003

HOME GAMES

Hockey – Clare Drake Arena

Friday, 17 January Pandas vs Regina, 7pm
Saturday, 18 January Pandas vs Regina, 7pm

Basketball – Main Gym

Friday, 17 January Pandas vs Bobcats, 6:30pm
Bears vs Bobcats, 8:15pm
Saturday, 18 January Pandas vs Bobcats, 6:30pm
Bears vs Bobcats, 8:15pm

Track & Field – Butterdome

Friday, 17 January 6–9:30pm
Saturday, 18 January 10–7pm
Sunday, 19 January 9–1:30pm

ATHLETIC NOTES

Track & Field

There's a track meet in the Butterdome all weekend long. At press time, there was no available information pertaining to specific events or competitors, though the times are listed above.

Swimming

The Canada West championships run in Calgary 17–19 January. The CIS championships go 21–23 February in Victoria, BC. Too bad there aren't any home meets this season.

Basketball

The Pandas come home with a 3-9 record, but their weekend opponent is even worse: the Brandon Bobcats haven't won in twelve conference matches this season. The Pandas haven't won in five.

Don Horwood's Bears (8-4) are ranked second in the CIS, and will challenge the 8-4 Bobcats in the Main Gym this weekend. The Bobcats are supposedly ranked ninth.

Hockey

The Pandas (12-0-0) challenge the last team to beat them in a conference game at the Drake this weekend. The Cougars triumphed 3-1 on 28 October, 2000 in Edmonton.

The Bears (17-2-1) are off for the weekend, while head coach Rob Daum and six Bears compete at the 2003 Winter Universiade in Taurisio, Italy 16–26 January. Defenders Jeff Zorn and Blair St Martin, netminder Clayton Pool, and forwards Ryan Wade, Kevin Marsh and Kris Knoblauch made the trip.



FILER PHOTO: MARCUS RENZ

The Bears' undefeated record will stand at least another weekend; they resume play 24 January.

Volleyball

The Bears (6-0) have a bye this weekend, while the Pandas (10-4) are in Saskatchewan for a pair of matches against the 4-10 Huskies. Alberta power Tawana Wardlaw leads the Canada West conference with an average of 3.91 kills per game.

Wrestling

Chris Maynes (84kg) and Owen Dawkins (66kg) represent the University at the non-conference Guelph Open in Ontario 17–19 January.

Track and Field for whom?

Lack of promotion frustrates coaches and athletes of sport at its purest'

BRENDAN PROCÉ
Sports Editor

This weekend's track and field meet in the Butterdome, and its lack of promotion, brings a lot of frustration to those involved.

"It's a self-fulfilling prophecy," said head coach Jim Slepica. "We say the media never promotes us, so we're reluctant to speak with them. Then they're reluctant to write a story because there isn't anything to write about."

Slepica's concerns are warranted. It's a hard sort of event to communicate to the public. Amid pockets of athletes practicing at pole vault, long jump, throwing and sprints, it's difficult for an outsider to make sense of it.

"There are so many terrific stories in track and field," said Slepica. "Whenever athletes in this sport succeed, it's by the most incredible chance. While he was speaking with me, he was coaching pentathlete Darren Peters, whom Ryan Smith of U of A ExpressNews called "the best university athlete in Canada." Peters was performing an odd-looking exercise where he'd jump onto a high wooden box with one foot, come down with the other, and jump onto a second box. Slepica described it as highly specialized training.

"We don't celebrate or glorify our victors as much as we should, and that's our fault because we don't know how. But when someone makes a CIS standard in track and field, they practically have to break a Canadian record to do so."

At the time of this writing, there wasn't much hype surrounding the event. Slepica himself penned the most recent article on the U of A athletics website about the team. Unfortunately, the coach praising his team holds about as much weight as Ralph Klein praising the work of his government. Most teams, however, have someone else in the athletics department promoting them.

"To my understanding, there's supposed to be someone here who does that for us," said Slepica.

The basketball, volleyball and track and field teams share the same media guide for their events; it can be purchased for a nominal fee at the event, and includes a glossy, magazine-style handout authored by the department highlighting certain achievements. There are several



FILER PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

The top-ranked Pandas and second-ranked Bears are accustomed to crowds this size. stories with photos about the volleyball and basketball teams, but only one story about track and field, describing Slepica's arrival at the University. An unrelated illustration accompanies the article.

"...When someone makes a CIS standard in track and field, they practically have to break a Canadian record to do so."

JIM SLEPICA,
HEAD COACH, TRACK AND FIELD

The coach admits that there are friendlier spectator sports. "It's sport at its purest, so only the

purest (other athletes and coaches) really understand it."

However, some believe that all is not lost on the sport. Third-year thrower Melissa These believes the World's Championships in Athletics, held in Edmonton August 2001, brought much-needed awareness to the sport.

"At this university, it's a sport in demand by the athletes. There are some really good coaches, and one-on-one training," said These. "It creates a goal-oriented atmosphere." The Bears and Pandas are ranked second and first in the CIS on the male and female sides respectively.

The meet runs in the Butterdome this weekend, from 6am to 9:30pm on Friday, 10am to 7pm on Saturday, and 9am to 1:30pm on Sunday.

This weekend could preview the Big One

Hockey Pandas vs Cougars weekend series at the Drake could foreshadow CIS national final

BRYAN LEE
Sports Writer

Are you an individual who shells out \$13 for new movies because you can also see the best reviews? If so, then this weekend's hockey games just might tickle your fancy.

The top-ranked Pandas (12-0) square off against the fourth-ranked Regina Cougars (10-3-1) in what is billed not only as a preview of the Canada West final, but also a possible national final. As hosts, Regina automatically qualifies for Nationals, and it seems certain the Pandas will be making another trip.

"Without a doubt, they're the best team on the other side of our conference. This weekend will be good to see how we stack up," head coach Howie Draper said of the arch-rival Cougars. They were the last team to beat the Pandas in conference play, which happened on 28 October, 2000 at the Drake.

The Canada West has been easy pickings for the Pandas this year, outscoring opponents 75-11. The last meeting with the Cougars was in mid-

November, where Pandas won two tough road games 4-3 and 5-2.

Although Alberta is dominating the scoring race with Danielle Bourgeois, Kristen Hagg and Lori Shupak, Regina has legitimate weapons in Brandy West, Julianne Foster and Joell Fiddler. Each team's defense will need to be alert this weekend.

The Pandas haven't played a game that counted since November. However, a strong outing last weekend against the Vancouver Griffins of the NWHL has re-energized the team and cast aside any fears of rust.

"We picked up a tie and a win there, which was huge for us. They have a couple of American (Carmen Granato) and Canadian (Nancy Drole) national team members, so it was a giant step to get us back into game shape," Adrienne VanderZalm explained. The third-year winger has seven goals and twelve points in twelve conference games.

The Griffins are a faster team than we've had to play so far, which forced us to match their level of play. Up until that point, our players

hadn't seen that they can play better," Draper added, also emphasizing that the Griffins were the team's toughest opponents so far this season.

Overall, the Pandas are feeling good about the second half, especially considering they lost eleven players from last year. The team's new blood has plenty of future years of eligibility.

"This year was a huge rebuilding year for us. To come out with such a great year so far with so many players is amazing. This is just the beginning and we're going to have amazing teams for the next couple of years," VanderZalm predicted.

First showtime: Friday night at 7:30pm. The encore: Saturday, same time. The venue: Clare Drake Arena.

BEARS ON THE ROAD MINUS SIX VETERANS

The Bears visit Manitoba this weekend without head coach Rob Daum and six players, who are part of a Canada West team representing Canada at the World University Games in Italy. D-man Jeff Zorn had two goals and two assists for Canada in an 8-1 win over Japan on Wednesday.

Hoops women need push—or ‘gutsy effort’

3-9 Pandas confront
0-12 Lady Bobcats at
home this weekend

MICHAEL CUST
Sports Writer

Two weeks ago, Pandas head coach Trix Baker was asked if her team still had a shot at catching Calgary and taking first in the Mountain division of the Canada West conference. She replied, "We have to win our next eight games." Baker's comments were on the tail end of a weekend sweep her team suffered at the hands Canada's best team, the SFU Clan.

Fast forward two weeks and the Pandas are now in a different situation, heading into action this weekend against the Lady Bobcats. After two losses last weekend to division-leading Calgary, the Pandas have changed their focus from their initial hopes of topping the Mountain division.

"We can't realistically catch Calgary," stated Pandas coach Trix Baker. "We have to start winning games and making a gutsy effort."

And this weekend's series with the lowly Bobcats will provide two good opportunities for the Pandas to improve their 3-9 record. Brandon is the worst team in Canada West with no victories in their eleven games this season. Further, they are averaging a dismal 48.7 points per game. Alberta, on the other hand, is averaging 61.4 points per game.

Baker said that her team will use the opportunity against Brandon to lift the team's spirits.

"We have to get our confidence back and we have to use this weekend as a confidence builder," said Baker.



FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BENBOW

The Pandas are also planning to implement their team strategies against the Lady Bobcats.

"We are not going to be playing to [Brandon's] offensive and defense," predicted Baker. "We want to focus on our defensive plan. We have things to accomplish skill-wise and system-wise."

Despite Baker's confidence, the Pandas may have their hands full with the ineffective Lady Bobcats. Difference in records aside, the two teams are close in many statistical areas. Both are averaging around nine steals per game and both are blocking about 1.4 shots per game. Even in offensive and defensive rebounds, the two teams are statistically indistinguishable.

Another challenge for the Pandas will be picking up their shooting game. In their last four games, the team is shooting a lackluster 34 percent. Brandon's weak defence, coupled with the familiarity of the home court,

should provide ample opportunity for the Pandas to overcome their shooting woes.

The Pandas have also seen their fair share of injuries this season. Earlier, the team was without last year's scoring leaders Christine Shewchuk and Diane Smith; Shewchuk is now back but Smith is gone for the season. Despite the bad luck, Baker said the wounded roster won't affect her team.

"Injuries can't be an excuse," explained Baker. "If we use injuries as an excuse, we're taking the easy way out."

To catch the Pandas in action, head to the Main Gym at 6:30pm Friday and Saturday.

BEARS

The Bears will defend their number-two ranking in Canada when the number-nine Brandon Bobcats roll into town. Games will be at 8pm Friday and Saturday night in the Main Gym.

Friesen on football

The Bears' head coach talks intangibles, academics, recruiting and Tom Osborne

BRENDAN PROCÉ
Sports Editor

The varsity football program has been marred by failure for nearly a decade now. If the team fails to make the playoffs in 2003, it'll make ten consecutive seasons since their last berth in 1993.

Head coach Jerry Friesen, entering his third season with the Bears, seems optimistic, perhaps unreasonably so. When describing the team's year-round schedule, he mentioned having precision that the playing season would be 18 weeks long if the team made the Vanier Cup, the championship match in CIS football.

"We're working on a lot of the intangibles now, versus the tangible. Those things whose importance you can't gauge when the season starts. The intangibles are awareness, discipline, the things that you can't measure but that winning teams have. We fell short on intangibles this year," said Friesen.

The coach's largest concern right now is his lack of big players—those who play on the offensive and defensive lines. According to him, the difficulty is finding a player who also meets the U of A's admission standards.

"You need at least a 70 per cent or higher [to gain acceptance to the University]. There are no exceptions made for athletes."

Another shortfall this season was

kicking. Where some CIS schools have full-time kickers, the Bears had receiver Mark Wojciechowsky in that slot.

"Much like the O and D lines, kickers are a rare commodity," said Friesen. "And so if you don't have that available, you just look at the other athletes on your team and get them to start kicking." The coach said although the option to hire a full-time kicker is available to Wojciechowsky, he is aggressively trying to recruit others. One possibility is current U of A student Steve Wozniarsky. He, however, is currently the football property of the Edmonton Huskies.

On the staff end, things are currently being finalized. However, don't expect an overhaul in 2003.

"There may be a few minor changes, but a majority of the coaching staff is coming back," said the coach. Included in the returning tally is offensive coordinator Terry Eisler.

"We're a young staff, but we mature as our players mature."

Indicative of that maturity was the team's play this year; though their 1-7 record was a shortfall by any standard, Friesen insists that the level of play was "competitively consistent."

The load of Friesen's work—the determining factor as to whether the football program is successful any time soon—is determined by what he accomplishes during the off-season. The coach explains his philosophy with a quote from another.

"I believe that the success or a failure of a team is at least 75 per cent determined before practices begin in the fall." These words were quoted from Tom Osborne, who coached the Nebraska Cornhuskers from 1973–1997, compiling a 235–49 record.

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The NHL is toasting

Canada lacks cash while the US lacks interest



MATTHEW BLACK

Sports Commentary

The NHL is rapidly approaching Armageddon. The Ottawa Senators' recent announcement of impending bankruptcy is the result of a poorly run league and its questionable operating parameters.

The downfall of the NHL is illustrated, like Major League Baseball and, to a much lesser extent, the National Basketball Association, by its descent into the "rich is better" trap. This is where bigger markets choke the Edmonton's and Calgary's to dust.

This phenomenon is most prevalent in baseball, where one can often pen playoff contenders before the year has begun: the Atlanta Braves and New York Yankees, for example. Likewise, the Colorado's, St Louis's and Detroit's of hockey.

Smaller markets have little to play for, and their aims for the season usually settle on trying to sneak a playoff berth against a monster team.

Naturally, exceptions like the Minnesota Twins or the Oakland A's exist, but their ultimate failure in the playoffs is further indication of the might of big money over good management.

Further inhibiting the success of the NHL is the lack of popularity of the sport south of the border. Most Americans would rank football, basketball, baseball, and NASCAR above

professional hockey.

Desperate expansions to cities like Raleigh and Nashville were, at best, questionable ventures that ultimately have not paid off.

The heart of the problem is, of course, the sport's ridiculous salaries. In Boston, Chicago and Ottawa, would-be fans are staying away from arenas in droves, unwilling or unable to cope with the expense.

Given the lack of a significant television contract, attendance is doubly important in the NHL, as it relies more on seat sales than some leagues.

Owners are in tough; changing more for better teams keeps the poorer fans away. Naturally, the players don't and won't ever want a pay cut, but their futures as professional athletes are in jeopardy.

To survive, the NHL must strive for a pay system akin to the NFL without going into specifics, the NFL has several league-wide contracts and a revenue-sharing plan that levels the financial playing field for all teams.

Under this agreement, small markets like Green Bay can flourish, much as the Oilers did prior to free agency.

Hockey will always be popular in Canada, and so Canada is its logical expansion ground.

However, our pathetic dollar and lack of huge American-style megapolis will keep new teams out of our country for some time.

The NHL must acknowledge that hockey is only a regionally popular sport in the US, and stop neglecting its earnest yet financially-impaired neighbours to the north. Canada is where the sport's future lies.

The Edmonton Sky Brickdrilling Icehawkmen need you!



JOEL CHURY

Ramblings from Moose Lodge

Who's your favourite Edmonton sports team of all time? Is it the Edmonton Drillers? The Ice? The Skyrhawks? How about the Brickmen? If it isn't one of those four, then who? I couldn't be that other hockey team, nor could it be those footballers that Bryan Hall seems to love so much. Nor could it be the Trappers. What have they done lately to earn your support?

What this city needs is a new franchise. As the Drillers, Ice, and Skyrhawks have proven in the past, Edmonton loves new teams, and supports new leagues as much as it can. Four defunct/moved teams can't lie.

It is because of this that I was intrigued by an opportunity for Edmonton to put itself on the sporting map by joining the exclusive National Lacrosse League (NLL), which features 12 teams to the NHL's crowded 30.

NLL commissioner Jim Jennings gave Edmonton the green light for a franchise this summer. Problem is, there isn't an ownership group committed to bringing a team here. Calgary businessman Bruce Stewart has expressed interest, but has some stipulations he needs addressed first. One concern is that he would like to have the option to move his franchise to Calgary if the Roughnecks ever fold

or are sold. Nice vote of confidence, dominoes think?

I'm not going to let this city rely on such a flimsy ownership possibility.

When Calgary was awarded a team before the 2002 season, the ownership group only had to pay an expansion fee of \$500 000. This year that price has doubled.

But in the world of professional sports, that number isn't very high. To the Oilers' ownership group, it would cost them a Georges Laroque. To the Eskimos ownership group, it'd cost their entire defence.

However, each of these teams represent possible advertising revenue. The Eskimos have already used this strategy by purchasing the Edmonton Trappers and changing their colours to look more like their older siblings at Commonwealth Stadium. The Oilers could have a lacrosse team dressed in blue, red, and copper.

If one of these organizations can be convinced to purchase a lacrosse team, we are going to need a name. I've taken the time to think up the following very thoughtful suggestions:

EDMONTON SKY BRICKDRILLING ICEHAWKMEN

This name encapsulates all of the joy and flavour of Edmonton's defunct franchises. The laughs, the tears, the bankruptcies, the folding. It's a great name.

EDMONTONINUIT

Clearly, this would suit the Eskimos ownership group. They could have one franchise with a politically correct

name, and another with a politically incorrect name. It would be great!

EDMONTON COMRIES

Seeing as the Brickmen soccer team was owned by the Brick, why not cut out the middleman? Just name the team what they really wanted to name the team. The logo could be Mike Connie holding a stick in the air while not smiling.

EDMONTON CHINOOK

This would work best if Bruce Stewart bought the team. Then he could easily move the team to Calgary like he intended. If asked about the name (considering the lack of chinooks in Edmonton), he could just mention the lack of actual lakes in Los Angeles and then change the subject.

EDMONTON MALLRATS

Well, the oil reference has already been taken by the Calgary Roughnecks, so why not point out the other feature of Edmonton that makes this city famous? Toronto cashed in on Hollywood with the Raptors, so Edmonton should be able to cash in on its prodigal son, Kevin Smith.

EDMONTON WAYNE-GRETZKY-HAD-MORE-ASSISTS-THAN-ANYONE-ELSE-HAD-POINTS-MEN

You want it.

Other possibilities: the Mindbenders, the Rough Riders, the Pergies, the NLLers, the Klondikes, the Roughriders, the Skyreachers, Aurora Borealis, or the Rocklings.

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Pandas @ 6:30

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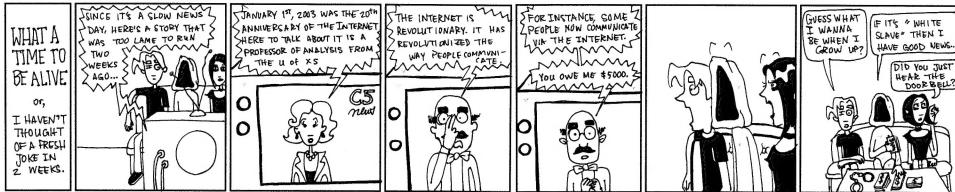
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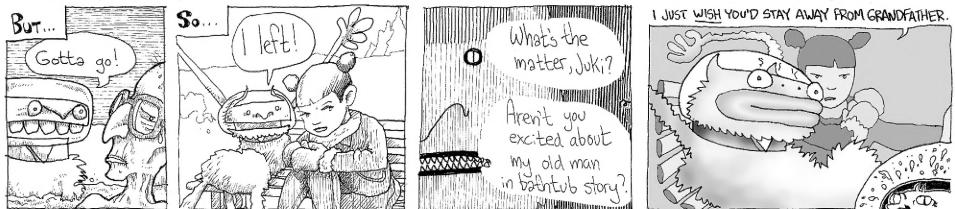
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